

Pipat Ensemble and Music for Ligkey in Amphur Muaeng, Chachoengsao Province

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Abstract : The major objective of this research study was to explore some aspects of the performance culture of musical folk drama called Ligkey. This study was undertaken in an effect to focus on the specific functions of orchestra which accompanied Ligkey on Thai musical instruments in Chachoengsao Province. The process of study and exploration consisted of questionnaire, interview, a tape recording of an interview and photographs of performances which all of them were analyzed for the finding. The information obtained from the study indicated that Ligkey still received stable attention from people despite lesser performances affected by economics crisis. Almost all of the performances were organized and supported by both the public sector and the private sector. Based on the summary and finding of this study, a) there were ten Ligkey ensemble and ten orchestra which were Mon orchestra, not the precedent and the predecessor known as Thai orchestra; b) a variety of functions performed by musicians must harmonize discipline, punctuality, patience, no negligence, proficiency in performance; c) folklore melodies known as Plengnapad were performed as usual, but folklore melodies and songs known as Plangsongchan got lesser and got a tendency towards extinction because of the plot which corresponded with a market-driven entertainment. Therefore, a purpose-built schema of the preservation of Thai folklore songs was that they should have been recognized by both the performers and the audiences and patronized by the public sector via the government media to publicize the value of popular art form.

Keywords : Pipat Ensemble, Ligkey, Amphur Muaeng, Chachoengsao Province

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