



THE CULTURAL EXCHANGE PERFORMANCE

BULGARIAN DANCE TROUPE AND STUDENTS OF SUAN DUSIT RAJABHAT UNIVERSITY

NOVEMBER 10 – 12, 2014

SUAN DUSIT RAJABHAT UNIVERSITY, THAILAND

Institute of Language, Art and Culture
Suan Dusit Rajabhat University

Welcome Speech

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen,

It is my delight that today Suan Dusit Rajabhat University has an opportunity to welcome the Folklore Dance Ensemble “ZHAR” from the Republic of Bulgaria. I heard that the ensemble has travelled around the world and performed the Bulgarian folklore dances in many occasions and in many countries: Poland, Hungary, Germany, Czech Republic, Italy, Israel, Romania, Belgium, Greece, Slovakia, to mention but a few. Thus, we are proud to be a part of this world famous ensemble’s tour.

Suan Dusit Rajabhat University was originally founded as a college of home economics. We have more than 70 years of experience in traditional Thai haute cuisine and exquisite traditional Thai handicrafts, as well as expertise in teaching and transferring this knowledge to younger generations. In this cultural exchange, the university will present the ways of life of Thai people through traditional Thai Music and two folk dances: “Serng Kratip Khoa” and “Ramwong,” as well as one contemporary dance: “Silk Dance” performed by Swan Team, the university cheerleading team that recently won the grand prize from 2014 IYF Cultural Dance Festival, hosted in Korea.

The cultural exchange performance between Bulgarian Dance Troupe and students of Suan Dusit Rajabhat University is not only beneficial for the two parties to learn the culture of Bulgarians and Thais through folklore dances but also to appreciate the beauty of diversity in art and culture of the both countries.

I would like to wish this Cultural Exchange achieve its goals and the Bulgarian visitors have a pleasurable and memorable experience of Thailand.

Hope you all enjoy the shows.

Assist. Prof. Dr. Niramit Kunanuwat

Vice-President for International Affairs

Suan Dusit Rajabhat University

Itinerary
The Cultural Exchange Performance between
Bulgarian Dance Troupe and Students of Suan Dusit Rajabhat University

November 10-12, 2014

Bangkok, Thailand

November 10, 2014

- 18.00 Performers from Bulgaria arrive at Suan Dusit Place Hotel.
 18.30 Welcome dinner

November 11, 2014

- 7.00 Breakfast at the hotel
 10.00 Opening ceremony at Raktakanishta Hall
 Welcome speech by the Vice-President for International Affairs of Suan Dusit Rajabhat University, Assist. Prof. Dr. Niramit Kunanuwat
 Speech by the representative from the Bulgarian performance group
 10.15 Folklore dance by the Bulgarian Dance Troupe
 11.15 Traditional Thai music and dance by students from Suan Dusit Rajabhat University
 Contemporary dance: “Beautiful Thai Silk” by Swan Team
 11.50 Thank you speech and token of appreciation by the Director of the Institute of Language Art and Culture (ILAC), Dr. Wanida Anchaleewittayakul
 Thank you speech by the representative from the Bulgarian performance group
 12.00 Lunch
 13.00 Pattaya excursion
 18.00 Dinner
 21.00 Arrive at Suan Dusit Place Hotel

November 12, 2014

- 7.00 Breakfast at the hotel
 10.00 Meeting at Likit Room 1 to conclude the current visit and discuss the collaboration in the future between the two parties
 12.00 Lunch at the hotel
 13.00 Bangkok excursion
 18.00 Depart the hotel for Suvarnabhumi Airport

Bulgarian Performance

Folklore Dance Ensemble “ZHAR”

Representative Ensemble of NSection of CIOFF® Bulgaria

FDE "ZHAR" was established in 1937 in cooperation with the community center "Petar Beron-1926". The Head of the group is Yordanka Shopova.

The repertoire of ZHAR" includes a variety of dances from all ethnographic regions of Bulgaria. The group has won awards from the traditional Republican festival of folk art. Also, the group won awards and diplomas for participation in Poland, Hungary, Germany, Czech Republic, Italy, Israel, Romania, Belgium, Greece, Slovakia. Dance group "Zhar" co-starred with the famous Bulgarian choir "The Mystery of Bulgarian Voices" in the records of Italian TV "RAI". In 1993, the dancers received a rare privilege for an audience with Pope John Paul II and as ambassadors of Bulgaria the group presented the beauty of Bulgarian folklore. The group has made numerous television appearances. Moreover, "ZHAR" take participation in all cultural events in Sofia, organized by the mayor of Sofia.

The Magic of Bulgarian dance presented by dedicated dancers captivate audiences also in Greece and Turkey in June and July 2008. The dancers presented their art at the prestigious and very competitive International Festival "Golden Carnation" in Yalova, Turkey. Among the very strong competition in the 11th international groups and before thousands of people, the jury set second place in the competition to the dance club "ZHAR"-another recognition of the unique Bulgarian folklore. In 2010 the ensemble "Zhar" participated in the festival "Kadans" in Belgium. In 2011, the group took part in the international festival in Budva, Montenegro and then in 2012 in Viareggio, Italy. In 2012, "ZHAR" celebrates its 75th anniversary showing the consistency and long-growing traditions in Bulgarian dancing.



Swan Team Performance

Contemporary dance: “Beautiful Thai Silk”

“Swan Team” is Suan Dusit Rajabhat University cheerleading team that was nominated by the International Youth Fellowship (IYF) to be the representative from Thailand to participate in the 2014 IYF Cultural Dance Festival held in Daego, the Republic of Korea. In this festival, Swan Team won the Grand Prize through the fascinating contemporary dance that depicted the silk production process from raising silkworms, harvesting cocoons through spinning and weaving until it became the world famous beautiful Thai silk.



Thailand Festival: Loy Krathong



The Loy Krathong has been a part of the Thai culture and way of living for a long time. At full moon night of the Thai 12th month (November), whole Thai people gather at the river banks and ask for blessings and forgiveness from the Goddess of the River by releasing Krathongs. Thousands of candle lights released at the same time illuminate the river brilliantly and is an eerie but beautiful spectacle. The traditional custom has become a major attraction for foreign tourists participating in the activities and enjoying the Thai hospitality. But we should not forget the real message of Loy Krathong: Gratitude to the River Goddess.

Loy Krathong is a ceremony to honor the Goddess of the river. In Thailand it is annually held on full moon day in November. Krathongs are small vessels or cups often made of cut banana stems, leaves and contain flowers, candles and joss sticks. They are released in the rivers and left to float downstream. Upon releasing the Krathongs one asks for forgiveness to the Goddess of the river for polluting her and makes wishes for the future. At present, the Loy Krathong Tradition is a major celebration in Thailand.

Loy Krathong practice was commonly held by people living near or around river basins. The origins can be traced back to practices held in India, Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia and Thailand. The practice and religious background varies in these countries or even within a country as is the case in Thailand.

In the north, the celebration is known as “Loi Khamod” or “Loi Fai”. The Krathongs are made in the shape of a house or a junk and offerings are put in leaves inside the Krathong. The Krathongs are floated down stream in remembrance of faraway relatives.

In the northeast region of Thailand, Loy Krathong is celebrated on full moon day in the eleventh lunar month. The celebration here is called “Lai Rua Fai” or “Floating Light Boats”.

In the southern region, the Krathongs are released in order to ‘float away’ bad luck and occasionally for sick people.

In the central region, the tradition is widely recognized as the most common and is the original Loy Krathong celebration in Thailand. Evidence shows that Loy Krathong was celebrated during the Ayutthaya period. A written record by a Sri Lanka envoy during the reign of King Boromkot stated that paper lanterns made in a shape of lotus flowers containing lighted candles were released down the river. In the third Reign of the Rattanakosin (Bangkok) era, the royal lanterns were modified in a form of leaf cups placed on cut banana stems. The small vessels were called Krathong Yai or Big Krathong and the decoration contests of the Krathongs were popular events during that period.

As said, Thai people express their gratitude to the Goddess of Water for nourishing their lives by celebrating Loy Krathong. However, depending on beliefs, Loy Krathong is also celebrated to express gratitude to the Lord Buddha or paying homage to ancestors. To sum up, Loy Krathong tradition is about expressing gratitude. It is a tradition that truly reflects the way of life and way of thinking of Thai people.

Reference

Office of the National Culture Commission, Ministry of Culture. (2009) *Loy Krathong*. Bangkok: The Agricultural Cooperative Federation of Thailand Press.

Traditional Thai Dances

Serng Kratip Khoa



Serng Kratip Khoa is a traditional Thai dance from the northeastern part of Thailand. It is usually performed on festive occasions. The dance shows the gestures and movements of female dancers while they are carrying food to their menfolk working in the field. It is a lively dance.

Ramwong



The dance known as “**Ramwong**” is evolved from “Ram Thone” which used to be a popular seasonal entertainment in the central part of Thailand. The musical instruments used in Ramwong are Ching, Krab, and Tone. The lyrics of the song played and sung during the dance is based on the rhythm of “Thone”. In 1944, when Thailand was under the rule of Field Marshal Plaek Phibunsongkhram, Ramwong was improved and had its own standard. While dancing, the male and female dancers would dance and walk around in a circle. Ramwong can be found in different occasions such as Loy Kratong festival and official welcoming ceremonies for foreign visitors.

Thai Musical Instruments



Ranat ek is an instrument in the percussion family consisting of 21 or 22 wooden bars suspended by cords over a boat-shaped trough resonator and struck by two mallets. While playing, the musician would make the rhythms by hitting the bars with the two mallets. It is used as a leading instrument in the piphat ensemble.



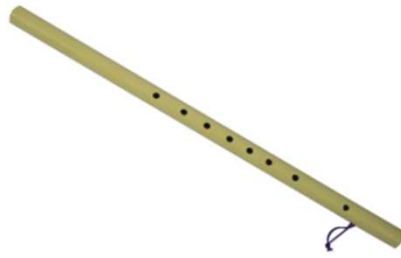
Ranat thum is an instrument built in the reign of King Rama III of Rattanakosin period. Built with the same kind of wood, Ranat thum is quite similar to Ranat ek. It has 17 or 18 wooden keys, which are stretched over a trough resonator. The shape of resonator is similar to the wooden chest. Ranat thum is used to produce different types of beautiful and unique rhythms.



Khong wong yai is a circle with gongs used in the music of Thailand. It has 16 tuned bossed gongs in a rattan frame and is played with two beaters. It is used in the piphat ensemble to provide the skeletal melody to the other instruments of the elaborate ensemble.



Saw u is a Thai bowed string instrument with two silk strings. The sound box of Saw u is made from a coconut shell covered on the open front by cow skin. Beautiful designs are carved at the back of Saw u. Saw u can be played as a solo instrument in some cases but is mainly used for the backbone in some ensembles.



Khlui phiang aw is a vertical duct flute from Thailand. It is generally made of wood with the holes arranged at the front used for controlling the tones. Khlui phiang aw is normally played in many types of ensembles like Mahori, Phiphat mai nuam, and Phiphat duek damban.



Ching is a Thai instrument made from brass and has a hole in each. Two pieces of Ching are bound together with a string. While playing, the musician would hit the edges of the two pieces together. Ching is named after the sound it produces: *Ching* when a piece of brass is raised after hitting and *Chup* when no piece of brass is raised up after hitting.



Klong khaek is a type of double-headed barrel drum made of leather. The shape of Klong khaek is cylindrical. There are two types of Klong khaek in a set: *klong khaek tua phu* (which is considered to be male) and *klong khaek tua mia* (female). While playing, the musician would hit one of Klong khaek after another to produce rhythms.



Taphon Thai is a traditional drum of Thailand with pieces of leather stretched on its two sides. Taphon is regarded as the great teacher of musical fine arts because Phra Prakone Tham was a great teacher of Taphon. Before playing Taphon, the musician needs to worship it with flowers and candles. When played in Piphat ensemble, Taphon is always regarded as the great teacher and is to control the other instruments.



Krab koo is made from two pieces of split smoothed bamboo, approximately 40 cm in length. While playing, the musician would hit the two pieces of wood together to make the sound *Krab*.



Klong yao is a long drum with only one head. The front of the drum is big, and the back is wide. Klong yao is normally made of wood and is generally encountered in parades or in parties.



Can is a kind of instrument. It is the most important instruments of the northern part of Thailand. The sound of Can is similar to that of the organ. Can is made of wood and has different sizes.



Charb is a musical instrument made of metal like Ching but is normally bigger and thinner than Ching.



Mong is an instrument made of metal. It is used to produce rhythms. The musician would make rhythms by hitting Mong with the mallets.

References

Department of Cultural Promotion. Ministry of Culture. (2014). *Thai Folk Musical Instruments*. Retrieved from http://www.culture.go.th/research/musical/html/en_central.htm