

KHAC CHI

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“ Chi and Bich play over a dozen different instruments. They are as musically eclectic as they are versatile, with a repertoire ranging from classical to the new Vietnamese compositions to the theme from the Godfather. But their music remains the folk songs and melodies of Vietnam and its 54 distinct ethno-cultural groups.”
Folk Root - London, UK



Khac Chi – Sounds of Vietnam

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KHAC CHI

KHAC CHI – SOUNDS OF VIETNAM



Khac Chi – Sounds of Vietnam features two of Vietnam's premiere musicians, performing concerts of exquisite beauty and virtuosity.

Their rare talents and superb musicianship have won them numerous awards for excellence, as well as many invitations to play all over Canada, the US, Europe and Asia. They have performed numbers of major festivals such WOMAD Festivals in UK and USA; Festival d'ete, Sunfest, Harbourfront in Canada; SFINKS in Belgium, Kaustinen Folk Music Festival in Finland, Respect World –Ethnic Music Festival in Czech Republic, Rain-Forest World Music Festival in Malaysia, a concert in Brunei, ...

Showcasing rare and unique musical instruments that made by bamboo from the mountain peoples of Vietnam, interspersed with peoples of Vietnam, interspersed with the haunting melodies of Dan Bau, a one-string zither from northern Vietnam, Khac Chi takes you on an adventure in sound. Their concert performances are a rare insight into the wealth and sophistication of Vietnamese culture.

Khac Chi has released two CDs: *"Moon Light in Vietnam"* 1997 – distributed by Rounder Record in US, and *"Spirit of Vietnam"* 1999 – distributed by Festival Distribution in Canada.

ABOUT THE PERFORMERS

Chi Khac, Ho is the world's premiere virtuoso on the DanBau (one string zither). A professor of Hanoi Conservatory for 24 years before came to Canada, as well as a composer and a music researcher. Chi's innovative developments on the Dan Bau have been heard in concerts throughout North America, Europe and Asia.

Bic Hoang is an exceptional vocalist, arranger and multi-instrumentalist and a music teacher. She specializes on the dan bau and a number of very rare instruments from Vietnam's rural and mountainous regions. Bic has been touring internationally both as a solo artist and with the Khac Chi Ensemble.

SCHOOL PROGRAM

Khac Chi's program is a fascinating and exciting journey through music and dance featuring over a dozen rare and unique bamboo instruments native to Vietnam.

These virtuoso artists offer an intriguing glimpse into the rich musical tradition of Vietnam and its 4,000-year history. The duo is known for its virtuosity and lively stage shows and its performances have been presented to thousands of schools throughout Canada, the United States, Europe and Asia.

Reponses from its ArtScan 2002 showcase include: "Ties in with Social Studies, Classy act!" ... "Charming, cheerful, happy experience!" ... "Fascinating!"... "Great cultural learning, informative and involving!" ... "Unique in sounds!" ...

For more information about Khac Chi:

www.khacchi.com
khacchi@khacchi.com

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2002 consensus book

How this information was put together

Comments reflect a range of delegate responses and opinions. Data was compiled from an average of 80 evaluation forms returned per showcase. Scores for Showcase Content and Educational Content are based on a scale ranging from 5 (high/excellent) to 1 (low/unsatisfactory), and are out of a possible 5.0 score. Audience Suitability figures are expressed as percentages and represent only partial returns (i.e., incomplete response for this category).

showcase content (out of a possible 5.0)

Level of artistry	4.8
Audience/Student appeal	4.4
Presentation value (costumes/visuals/etc.)	4.7

educational content (out of a possible 5.0)

Educational value	4.6
Rapport with students	4.4
Relevance to students	4.2

audience suitability

Primary	97%
Intermediate	97%
Middle/Junior	71%
Secondary	44%

comments

Ties in with Social Studies; Classy act!... Spectacular display in costumes, instruments... Excellent... Vibrant and charming; well paced... Very entertaining... Excellent variety... Well presented; Good explanations... Beautiful music; thank-you... Charming, cheerful, happy experience... Fascinating!... Definitely appeal to all ages; very fresh... Great cultural learning; informative & involving... Polished, professional, interactive presentation... Unique in sound; wonderful control of audience... Performers evoke cultural appreciation; Gracious!

Khac Chi



Khac Chi and Bic Hoang are Khac Chi Ensemble. Regarded as one of Vietnam's premier music groups, the duo is known for its virtuosity and lively stage shows. Their new CD, *Spirit of Vietnam*, showcases the ensemble's diverse musical styles, combining both classical and traditional instruments from the highlands.

Showcase Traditional and contemporary Vietnamese music performed on bamboo instruments.

Discipline	Music
Grades	Primary to Secondary
Languages	English, Vietnamese
Duration	40-50 min.
Capacity	400
Tech needs	Electrical outlet, 3 armless chairs, small table
# in Grp	2
Homebase	Vancouver
Fee (LM)	\$400
Fee (other)	\$600
Showcase(s)	1997, 2000, 2002

KHAC CHI

HICKORY DAILY RECORD
SATURDAY, APRIL 3, 2004

FROM VIETNAM WITH LOVE



ROBERT C. REED / RECORD PHOTOS

Chi Khac Ho, right, shows Garrett Allison and Josh Saliers how to play the Bang Bu (Vietnamese stamping tubs)

**Musicians entertain students,
play at library today**

BY JOSH YODER
Record Staff Writer

HICKORY

Original from Vietnam, the Khac Chi ensemble plays many styles of music – contemporary, world and folk, to name a few.

But they've developed performance featuring lively new renditions of old tunes, comedic stage antics and audience participation to gain the appreciation of Western audiences.

It works.

The ensemble, a duo, performed their traditional folk music Friday to a cheering, laughing crowd at Southwest Elementary School. They'll be giving a free performance this afternoon at Patrick Beaver Memorial Library

The group is made up of two of Vietnam's premier musicians, Khac Chi Ho and Bic Ngoc Hoang. They play about a dozen instruments, many of which are made out of bamboo. The two are full-time musicians who tour the world, often performing at folk music festivals.

Khac Chi was able to perform at Southwest and Longview elementary schools through a grant from the Catawba County Council for the Arts.

Students clapped in rhythm and roared in laughter during Friday's performance. Several children got to come onstage and play various instruments.

Josh Saliers, a fourth-grader, said he really enjoyed the music. During the performance, he got to play the bang bu, pipes of bamboo that are stamped on the ground to produce a percussive sound.

"I liked it when we played the sticks," Josh said.

jjoder@hickoryrecord.com /322-4510 x257

KHAC CHI

The
Californian

Friday September 14, 2001

Teaching a universal language



RICHARD GREEN/THE CALIFORNIAN

Hoang Ngoc Bich, a member of the Vietnamese group Khac-Chi ensemble, receives help from students of Laurelwood School in Salinas on Thursday as part of the school's World Music Festival.



Nothing but positive comments from students & teachers about Khac Chi's performance today!

It was creative, fun, interactive & gave us memorable exposure to another culture. It's always a good sign when a group of kids surround the artists with questions after a show.

Thanks again for making Langley Middle School a part of the Family Series plan at Whidbey Island Center for the Arts.

Khac Chi joins a stellar group of past performers who've opened eyes & minds at Langley Middle School.

February 15, 2002

Sheila McCue
Teacher at Langley Middle
School
Whidbey Island, Washington

KHAC CHI

INDEPENDENT TRIBUNE

A media General Newspaper
Thursday, February 10, 2005 * Vol. 104 * No. 115 * 28 Pages

The Unifying Voice of Greater Cabarrus County

www.independenttribune.com



"Through performing we are able to exchange our culture. And through songs and music, these students are able to learn a little bit about the Vietnamese culture...." – Bic Hoang

Studying Asia

Cabarrus Arts Council sponsors Vietnamese music performance

By Charity Cline Mangan ccline@independenttribune.com 704-789-9151.

KANNAPOLIS — Since seventh-graders can't travel to Vietnam, Vietnam traveled to them this week.

This week, more than 2,000 students in Cabarrus County will attend the musical performance *Khac Chi - Sounds of Vietnam*, performed by Chi Khac, Ho and Bic Hoang. Both have an extensive background in music and have been studying music since the age of 8. They both now teach at the University of British Columbia.

"Through performing we are able to exchange our culture," said Bic of the importance of their work. "And through songs and music, these students are able to learn about the Vietnamese culture, to better understand and respect it."

The performance, sponsored by the Cabarrus Arts Council, is

meant to enhance the seventh-graders study of Asia. At one of 10 performances

Wednesday morning at Northwest Cabarrus Middle School, students were very interested in the bamboo instruments, made by the mountain people of Vietnam, that the couple used in their presentation.

"I love it — they make their own instruments," said Matthew Young.

"When we want something, we just go buy it."

The performers said little but did most of the talking through their instruments, which they allowed some of the students to come down front and experiment with.

During the performance, the husband and wife duo used more than a dozen of the bamboo instruments, often playing several at once.

Between songs and dances, Bic explained the context for the music to

the students, who responded by mimicking the sounds and actions of the performers.

Bic explained that the songs and stories the couple performs are related to roots of some of the 50 minority groups that populate Vietnam.

Chi and Bic said they honor their music by performing mostly on the instruments that are indigenous to Vietnam.

"I liked the performance," said student Bilal Lindsey, "but I like music." •

Khac Chi tours regularly in the United States, Europe and Canada, where they have lived since 1992.

Chi, an award-winning composer in Vietnam, is considered to be an expert on the dan bau, a one-string zither.

He was a professor at the Vietnam Conservatory of Music, the conductor of the conservatory's traditional instrument orchestra and the leader of several touring

ensembles, one of which evolved into Khac Chi.

Bic is credited as being the first woman ever to play the koni, a two-string stick fiddle where silk threads are attached to a disc that is held in the mouth so that the mouth serves as the resonating chamber for the instrument.

As the performance ended and students headed back to class, "cool" seemed to be the word.

"It sounded cool," said Josh Chew. "They are cool."

"Their culture is obviously very different from ours," said Ryan Rutherford, "but still cool."



Photos by: BRIDGETT BAKER/
INDEPENDENTTRIBUNE

KHAC CHI

The Patriot-News
Harrisburg, Pa.
enlivenlive
.com

LOCAL & STATE

SATURDAY
January 8, 2005
SECTION B

THE SOUNDS of Vietnam

RIGHT: Vietnamese musician Bic Ngoc Hoang dances as she plays instruments during a performance for high school students at Harrisburg Academy on January 7, 2005. She plays instruments and sings melodies of folk songs from Vietnam.

BELOW: Chi Khac Ho plays the Sao Bop, or squeeze bamboo flute, which he invented, for high school students during an improvisation music class at the Harrisburg Academy.



Photos by Michael Fernandez, The Patriot -News

Extensive diversity inspires ensemble

Khac Chi, one of Vietnam's premier musical ensembles, performed for students at Harrisburg Academy yesterday.

The two-member ensemble performs with more than a dozen rare musical instruments that are indigenous to Vietnam.

The performers wear native costumes and draw on the 4,000-year history and 54 ethnic/cultural groups in Vietnam. That enables them to based on the create new arrangements country's traditional folk songs and melodies.

The

KHAC CHI

Ensemble

The Northern Alberta International Children's Festival
June 1 to 5, 1999 St. Albert, Alberta

The
Edmonton **Journal**

Thursday, June 3, 1999 (excerpted)

The kids can teach you plenty

The round dance is only one example

Liz Nicholls
Journal Theatre Writer
Edmonton

...By the end of their show, the Khac Chi Ensemble, a trio of engaging Vietnamese musical virtuosos now based in Vancouver, has assembled an entire orchestra of eager participants. They play, or at least whale away on, a fascinating range of exotic ancient instruments, accompanied by the three Vietnamese musicians and the rest of us, who have learned to make our mouths into wind chambers.

You'll discover a whole treasure trove of rare instruments as the Khac Chi Ensemble conjures the sounds of Vietnam with bamboo xylophones, wooden pipes and flutes, tubular drums tuned and played with flat paddles, shimmering racks of shells – and voices, too. Khac Chi himself is Vietnam's premier player of the Dan Bau, a one-stringed zither so difficult it should make dobro players everywhere feel like they're just mailing in their stuff. The sound, as this charming man explains, has an eerie resemblance to the human voice, with a startlingly resonant lower range and hauntingly penetrating soprano.

Ngoc Bich, his wife, is the first woman to play the Dan Ko Ni, a two-string violin attached by silk thread to a membrane she places in her mouth. This is the resonating chamber; and I guarantee you'll never have heard anything like the quivering sound which resembles a human cry. At other times Ngoc Bich, exquisitely dressed in a multi-coloured satin costume, plays a sort of double-sided xylophone that hangs like a suspension bridge. Sometimes she just claps in front of open ended bamboo pipes and they make a sound – true magic and nothing whatever to do with the K-Tel clapper light. At the performance I caught, kids, from the tiniest on up, loved the grace and good humour of the trio, and were endlessly curious about the music too.

The St. Albert Gazette
Saturday, May 15th, 1999
(excerpted)

It's about time for festival fun

International Children's Festival plays with time, as it welcomes entertainers from around the world

By Craig Elliott
Staff Writer

Khac Chi Ensemble

... Though the instruments and music that the Khac Chi Ensemble play look and sound like they come from another planet, they are actually the native instruments of the mountain people of Vietnam and some of them are over 2,000 year old.

The exotic ensemble's members – Khac Chi, Ngoc Bich and Hung Nguyen – like to educate their audiences about the eerie, haunting sounds of their homeland, but also enjoy demonstrating how they can function with classical music and even the popular music and instruments of their adopted home, Canada.

The ensemble plays for children often at festivals and in schools and musician Ngoc Bich says these are some of their most enjoyable performances.

"We really enjoy performing for children," she said.

"They ask us many different and interesting questions. Some are very funny." Children seem more open to the oddly-shaped instruments and their mysterious sounds. "Many times, they play with us by playing on their bodies."



July 5, 1999

Dear Bic Hoang,

Just a quick note to thank you and the rest of the ensemble for your cooperation and media support during the Northern Alberta International Children's Festival. It was wonderful to have your fabulous show at the Festival and we're thrilled at the audience's response to it.

As promised, here are all the media clippings from the Festival.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at (780) 459-1515. I look forward to working with you again sometime!

Sincerely,

Larissa Banting
Marketing & Public Relations

P.S. Thank you for your kind note.

Edmonton Woman Magazine May/June 99
(excerpted)

It's about time for the children's festival

... One of the mainstage highlights is the Khac Chi Ensemble, a trio of talented Vietnamese musicians who now call Vancouver home.

The 4,000-year-old tradition of Vietnamese folk music features an exotic array of instruments, including the Dan K'longput, a set of bamboo pipes which are played by clapping in front of the open end. Even more unusual is the Dan Ko Ni, a two-string violin that uses the player's mouth as a resonating chamber!

It's a fascinating glimpse into a beautiful musical tradition from the Far East and the Khac Chi Ensemble infuses each performance with both humour and phenomenal musicianship.

The

KHAC CHI

Ensemble

The Khac Chi Ensemble and Kids



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May 12, 1999

Ms. Charlotte Britton
Britton Management
856 Hamilton Drive
Lafayette Hill, PA 19444

Dear Ms. Britton:

Enclosed is a very special thank you poem written by various students who certainly enjoyed the performance by Khac Chi at Depew Middle School on Friday, April 23, 1999.

Would you please arrange to send this poem to Bic and Chi. We have been advised by many teachers that they were very impressed with the wonderful performances. Both Bic and Chi were so personable, warm and gracious to students, and it was obvious to all of us how much they both enjoyed their work!

Thank you again so very much. It was a pleasure working with you and your staff.

Yours truly,

Patricia A. Ries
Operations Manager

Enclosure



Thank you Khac Chi...
We wrote this poem for you



We enjoyed listening to your unique, beautiful music.

- I enjoyed the beat of your fascinating music. -Dana
- I enjoyed the dan bau sound. -Amanda P.
- I enjoyed the uniqueness of all the instruments. -Gary
- I enjoyed different cultural music. -Kyle
- I enjoyed the bright colored costumes. -Jonathan
- I enjoyed their beautiful singing voices. -Angela
- I enjoyed the large and smaller instruments. -David
- I enjoyed listening to the instrument in her mouth. -Robin
- I enjoyed watching them play so quickly. -Joshua
- I enjoyed playing on stage for the final number. -Brandon
- I enjoyed making the rain forest sounds. -Jason
- I enjoyed seeing their wonderful coordination. -Samantha
- I enjoyed when both played the flute at the same time. -Chris
- I enjoyed when they taught us different words. -Mike
- I enjoyed participating with the performers. -Jason
- I enjoyed making the noise with my mouth. -Amanda
- I enjoyed watching the great audience participation! - Mrs. H.

