

KHAC CHI



*Khac Chi – Sounds of Vietnam * 5295 Elgin Street, Vancouver, B.C. Canada. V5W 3J9.
Tel: 604 254 1602 * Fax: 604 254 1602 * Email: khacchi@khacchi.com * Web site: www.khacchi.com*

KHAC CHI

KHAC CHI – SOUNDS OF VIETNAM



Montreal Jazz Festival 2005

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, Calgary and Vancouver Children Festival, Montreal and Vancouver Jazz Festival... in Canada; SFINKS Festival in Belgium, Kaustin Folk Music Festival in Finland, Rain-Forest World Music Festival in Malaysia, ...

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 three CDs: "Moon Light in Vietnam" 1997 – distributed by Rounder Record in US, "Spirit of Vietnam" 1999 and the new CD "The Sounds of Dan Bau" 2006 – distributed by Festival Distribution in Canada.

ABOUT THE PERFORMERS

Chi Khac, Ho is the world's premiere virtuoso on the Dan Bau (one string zither). An instructor of Hanoi Conservatory for over 20 years before coming to Canada, he is also 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 Khac Chi.

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

Khac Chi offers difference performances including Festivals, Public Concerts, and Arts in Education for all ages with variety choices of workshops.

Khac Chi has set out to bring their traditional music to western audience in ways those audiences can appreciate and enjoy it. For Khac Chi, this has meant coming up with lively new arrangements of Vietnamese traditional, folk, contemporary tunes and creative stage antics to capture their listeners. The group honors their music by performing mostly on the instruments that are very unique, indigenous to Vietnam as well as the instruments invented by Khac Chi's members.

Highly educational, cultural value while incorporating audience participation and light hearted humour into their show, Khac Chi brings the haunting lyricism, energetic rhythms and fascinating timbres to the audience, offers intriguing glimpses into the rich musical traditions from 4,000 years of Vietnamese culture.



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Highlight Performances

2008	City / State	Country
Pingtong Folk Fetsival	Pintong	Taiwan
California WorldFest	Grass Valley . CA	USA
Pamberton Festival	Pamberton. BC	Canada
Vancouver Children Festival	Vancouver. BC	
Harmony Arts Festival	West Vancouver. BC	
2007		
Mela Festival	Oslo	Norway
Rain Forest World Music Festival	Kuching	Malaysia
Jeonju Sori Festival	Jeonju	South Korea
Brunei Music Societty	Bandar Seri Begawan	Brunei Darussalam
2006		
Colonial Theater	Idaho Falls, ID	United State
Borrego Springs Performing Arts Center	Borrego Springs, CA	
Divine Word College	Epworth, IA	
Asian Culture Festival	Dayton, OH	
Prairie to Pines Awasisak Children's Festival	Meadow Lake, SK	Canada
maison de la culture AHUNTSIC	Montreal, QC	
maison de la culture Frontenac	Montreal, QC	
Capitol Theatre	Moncton, NB.	
Fredericton Playhouse	Fredericton, NB	
2005		
World City Series @ Walt Disney Concert Hall	Los Angeles, ca	United State
Old Songs Festival	Guilderland, NY	
International Cultural Festival	Stuart, FL	
World music festival@ Longwood Gardens	Kennett Squire, PA	
Festival International de Jazz de Montreal	Montreal, QC	Canada
Sunfest	London, ON	
Capital Theatre	North Bay, ON	
KW Chamber Music Society	Waterloo, ON	
2004		
RESPECT - Ethnic & World Music Festival	Praha/ Prague	Czech Republic
Kaustinen Folk Music Festival	Kaustinen	Finland
Haapavesi Folk Festival	Haapavesi	Finland
Calgary Asian Heritage	Calgary, AB	Canada
Appalachian State University	Boon, NC	United State
River Side Concert Series @ Mayo Civic Hall	Rochester, MN	
World music festival	Long Island, NY	
2003		
Edinboro University of Pennsylvania	Edinboro, PA	United State
Pangaea World Music Festival	Jonesboro, TN	
Momentum Arts Center	Clarksburg, WV	
Cincinati Playhouse in the Park	Cincinnati, OH	
Dragon Boat Festival	Vancouver, BC	Canada
Vancouver Island MusicFest	Courtney, BC.	
Festival for the Arts	Port Albani, BC	

KHAC CHI MUSIC

* When you talk about traditional musical performances, the Vietnamese Khac Chi Music was outstanding. They sing Vietnamese traditional songs along with the instruments, ... shared Vietnamese fishing songs and folk tales with the audience of over 7000 people - [詩華日報 News Paper. Malaysia 2007](#)

* It is always such a pleasure to meet wonderfully dedicated musicians who have no pretentious airs about them at all, and then they go on stage and completely bowl over the audience with their dexterity and performance. - [by Yeoh Jun Lin, Artistic Director - Rainforest World Music Festival. Malaysia 2007](#)



* The Music was very infectious and the audience couldn't help but snap their fingers and clap along. The group was a pleasure to work with" - [by Dana Gordon Schmoyer. Performing Arts Coordinator of Longwood Gardens. PA 2005](#)

* Khac Chi, Kanadalaistuneen duon (ei musiikillisesti), epäilemättä autenttinen, valoisa, raikkaiden pentatonisten asteikkojen sävyttämä bambusta valmistettujen vietnamilaisten kansansoitimien musiikki toi Festivaaliareenalle iloisen tunnelman. - [by Tuomas Airola. Kaustinen, Finland 2004](#)

* Tradiční hudba z Vietnamu rozhodne nepatří mezi casté hosty zdejších ani světových festivalu. Vystoupení souboru Khac Chi Ensemble, který se skládá z virtuóza na jednostrunnou citeru dan bau Ho Khac Chi (54) a vynikající zpevácky Hoang Ngoc Bich, jez zároveň ovládá celou fadu vietnamských bambusových nástrojů, je tak jednou z mála příležitostí, kdy se s touto hudbou muzeme potkat. - [by J. Moravčík. Kultura, Prague, Czech 2004](#)

* En fin d'après-midi, le Khac Chi Ensemble a éclipsé le soleil qui brillait pourtant de tous ses feux. Ho Khac Chi et Hoang Ngoc Bich célébraient le 10e anniversaire de leur premier passage au Festival et de leur immigration subséquente au pays. - [by Eric Moreault. Le Venderdi 2002](#)

* It was a night of sheer entertainment for the audience who watched with enthusiasm the performance of the Vietnamese duo Chi Ho and Bic Hoang...- [by Jun Ong, Borneo Bullentin, Brunei 2002.](#)

* You did not only bring us music, but also your culture, warmth and humanity - [Patrick, Artistic director of SFINKS Festival. Boechout, Belgium 2001](#)

* ...and then Ngoc Bich pulls out her ko ni . This instrument would have made Jimi Hendrix throw away his wah-wah and Peter Frampton trash his voice box - [by Bill Wolford - WOMAD USA 2000](#)



KHAC CHI

華日報

南沙

200

◀小可爱！您知我多爱您吗？

▼越南的嘴笛合拼。



雨林音樂節 明年再相會

(本报古晋16日讯) 明年的今天，约定在婆罗州的热带雨林中，再以音乐会友！

由来自世界17个国家及地区的20支乐队带来一连3晚的顶尖音乐，昨晚在众音乐爱好者几乎拍巴掌的高昂气氛下，圆满结束。

今年演出乐队的阵容庞大，除了来自东西马的本地乐队外，还有来自苏联、越南、苏格兰、波兰、比鲁、美国、加拿大、金巴布维、意大利、英国、比利时及阿富汗等。

与之前2晚的演出雷同，昨晚的演奏会由砂拉越本土的乐队掀起序幕。紧接著下有来自阿富汗的HUSSEIN ARMAN 和来自马达加斯加的HANITRA RASOANAIVO呈献民族风十足的演奏。

说到具有传统民族风的演奏，非来自越南的KHAC CHI真的是令人刮目相看。这一对男女真的是音乐天才，只见他们用仅有一条线的乐器，或一只竹子，甚至是含在嘴里的一片“叶子”，便能发出优越美妙的旋律。

他们把越南的传统歌曲一边唱一边弹，还逐地

解释歌曲的意思，把越南人民的捕鱼歌谣、收成时的小调等等，与在场的逾7000名音乐爱好者分享。

昨晚演出音乐家也包括来自意大利的TAMMORRA SPECIAL、南美洲的INKA MARKA、HUUN HUUR TU、英国DOGHOUSE SKIFFLE GROUP、和波兰的SHANNON。

值得一提的是，来自我国本土的乐队ASEANA PERCUSSION UNIT，其出色的演奏令人对本国的音乐水准有更进一步的肯定。乐队的成员与我国的文化背景相似，有各族各年龄层的朋友，还有各种完全不协调的各民族传统乐器。

不过，这些乐器(各国家的鼓等)加在一起，在众人齐心协力的合奏下便发挥了其独特的魅力

，且还真的很马来西亚！这种具有文化特色的乐队，绝对是值得热带雨林音乐节继续推崇的。

昨晚最後一场的全体乐队大合奏，为这场第1个年头的热带雨林音乐节划下完美的休止符。

完毕後，尽情享乐的听众还留恋忘返践踏在充满垃圾的草地间，隐隐约约之间，还听到有人絮絮不休地问身边的人，“你明年有来吗？”

有，热带雨林音乐节，我们明年再见……

▼来自越南的独特竹乐器。



When you talk about traditional musical performances, the Vietnamese Khac Chi Ensemble was outstanding.

This couple has extreme talent, when you see a one string instrument, or one bamboo flute played by two persons, or a piece of leaf, ... with only that, they make beautiful melodies.

They sing Vietnamese traditional songs along with the instruments, usually explaining the meaning of the songs, shared Vietnamese fishing songs and folk tales with the audience of over 7000 people. - Translated by Qiu Xia He and Andrey Thebault



November 17, 2005

Peggy Baldwin
Lloyd Artists, Inc
133 Forest Hill Drive
Asheville, NC 28803

Dear Peggy:

Please pass on my thanks to Khac Chi for two wonderful performances as part of Longwood Gardens' Chrysanthemum Festival. The sounds provided an additional layer of appeal to our visitors' senses and furthered their enjoyment. The music was very infectious and the audience couldn't help but snap their fingers and clap along.

The group was a pleasure to work with and we hope they enjoyed their time here as much as we enjoyed having them. Thank you again for making the Chrysanthemum Festival so exceptional!

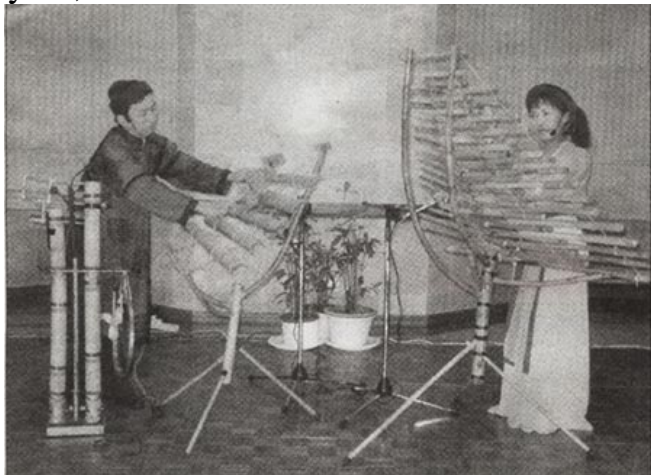
Sincerely,

Dara Gordon Schmoyer
Performing Arts Coordinator

KHAC CHI



July 20, 2002



By June Ong

IT was a night of sheer entertainment for the audience who watched with enthusiasm the performance of the Vietnamese duo, Chi Khac Ho & Bic Hoang from Canada.

The couple introduced and played a variety of traditional Vietnamese instruments to the audience before they asked the audience to participate with them in making the different sounds that accompanied the musical instruments that they were playing. One such sound that the audience gladly participated was the "Klongput", whereby amazingly beautiful rhythms and music could be made by clapping both hands together in front of the mouth.

Bic Hoang, Chi Khac Ho's wife showed the audience how it was done, by playing a lovely Bruneian folk song which they learned whilst attending His Majesty's birthday celebrations in Temburong on Thursday.

Unique traditional Vietnamese instruments like the Dan Bau, Bass T'rung and T'rung, as well as the Bang Boo were introduced to the audience for the first time last night.

The "Sounds of Vietnam" Concert on Friday night was presented by the Brunei Music Society and the Canadian High Commission at the Orchid Garden Hotel.

NEW EXPRESS

July 12, 2002

MUSIC FROM THEIR HEARTS

By Yusrin Junaidi

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN: Vietnamese-born duo, Khac Chi from Canada will perform on July 19 evening at the Orchid Garden Hotel.

Sponsored by the Canadian Embassy, the Brunei Music Society has been able to bring this talented husband and wife duo to Brunei.

Khac Chi has set out to bring its traditional music to western audiences in ways they can enjoy by coming up with lively new arrangements of traditional tunes and creative stage antics to capture their listeners.

At one point in their show, the two musicians play the same flute, each blowing a different hole.

They also encourage audience participation and educate them in the different styles of music being played.

Their combination of musical virtuosity with sheer entertainment value has earned them the opportunity to play all over Canada, the US and Europe.

Before coming to the Sultanate, the duo was performing at the International Rainforest World Music Festival in Kuching, Malaysia. Both were teachers at the Hanoi National Conservatory and Hanoi College of Music and Art before migrating to Canada in 1992.

At the moment, they are teaching part-time at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver as half of the year the duo travels around Canada, the US and Europe to perform professionally for their audience. Their next stop is to perform at a festival in Belgium known as "Sfinks Festival".

KHAC CHI

LE VENDERDI

5 Juillet 2002

CRITUQUE Parfums d'Orient



Le Soleil, Jocelyn Bernier
Le Khac Chi Ensemble a e'clipse' le soleil

ERIC MOREAULT

EMoreault@lesoleil.com

Les explorateurs de lointaines contrées musicales ont découvert hier, en ouverture du Festival d'été, parfums d'Orient et sonorités persanes et vietnamiennes, gracieuseté de deux formations... de Vancouver!

En fin d'après-midi, le Khac Chi Ensemble a éclipsé le soleil qui brillait pourtant de tous ses feux. Ho Khac Chi et Hoang Ngoc Bich célébraient le 10^e anniversaire de leur premier passage au Festival et de leur immigration subséquente au pays.

Ces maîtres de la musique traditionnelle vietnamienne jouent sur une panoplie d'instruments de bambou, souvent plusieurs à la fois, dont on vous épargne la nomenclature: ils se chargent des explications, sympathiques et enjouées. Leurs harmonies vocales servent de mélodies en contrepoint aux rythmes de ces instruments polyphoniques.

La bouche, les mains, les pieds; presque tout le corps est sollicité, parfois même comme caisse de résonance. Pas besoin de synthés ou de pédales pour jouer avec les sons, seulement de la dextérité et de l'imagination. Ils parviennent même à faire oublier l'aspect répétitif et, malgré tout, un peu mono-corde de leur répertoire. Franchement étonnant!

Mais rien ne sert de décrire ce fichu dépaysement car il faut le voir - et l'entendre - pour le croire. Ce que vous pourrez faire demain, heureux festivaliers.

COURRIER AHUNTSIC

dimanche le 27 Janvier 2002

UNE FOULE D'ÉVÉNEMENTS AU PROGRAMME DE LA MAISON DE LA CULTURE

Vincent Lanctôt

De la musique inspirée de l'art ancestral et contemporain du Vietnam à une pièce de théâtre inspirée destinée aux enfants, les prochains événements présentés par la maison de la culture Ahuntsic-Cartierville promettent d'être variés.

Tout d'abord, dans le cadre de la série *Les Radio-concerts au bout du monde*, la maison de la culture Ahuntsic-Cartierville présente le spectacle *L'esprit du Vietnam*, interprété par l'ensemble Khac Chi, le 2 février à 20h.

Les deux fondateurs du groupe Khac Chi et Ngoc Bich, se sont installés dans l'Ouest canadien au début des années 90, amenant avec eux une variété d'instruments issus des peuplades minoritaires du Vietnam, dont le dan bau (cithare à une corde) et le dan k'longput (flute de pan où l'air est soufflé par les mains). Le duo combine l'art ancestral et contemporain du Vietnam, qui couvre 4000 ans d'histoire.

KHAC CHI

Kaustinen Folk Music Festival

Kaustinen, Finland July 10-18, 2004

KESKIPOHJA NMAA

Torstaina 15.7.2004

Kaksi alkuperäisenä

Konsertit

Tuomas Airola
KAUSTINEN

Kaustisen kansanmusiikkifestivaali konsertti areenalla 13.7. Khac Chi -musiikkia Vietnamista.

Eksoottista vietnamilaista musiikkia kuulee harvemmin näissä maisemissa. Pientä esimakua musiikin luomista tunnelmista on saattanut satunnainen kuikija kokea lähimpänä ehkä Pietaisaaren mainioissa vietnamilaisravintoloissa. Siellä musiikki on kylläkin etupäässä haikeansävyyistä iskelmä ja tulvii sisustukseen piilotetuista kaiuttimista.

Khac Chi, Kanadalaistuneen duon (ei musiikillisesti), epäilemättä autenttinen, valoisa, raikkaiden pentatonisten asteikkojen sävyttämä bambusta valmistettujen vietnamilaisten kansansoittimien musiikki toi Festivaaliareenalle iloisen tunnelman.

Ksylofonin, erilaisten huilujen sekä lähes kaikessa mukana olleen kolmantena osapuolen, urkupilli-ialkarummun käyttö täydensi kokonaisuutta muun muassa Spedevisiosta tuttuun

tapaan. Vaikutelma ei kuitenkaan missään vaiheessa muistuttanut koyhän miehen orkesteria.

Muusikkoina duon esiintyjät olivat poikkeuksellisen taitavia ja yksinkertaisten instrumenttien kanssa heidän monipuolinen osaamisensa tuli tavallista koistuneemmin esille.

Selkeällä englanninkielellä esiintyjät vuoroin kertoivat laulujen ja sävelmien sisiälloista. Pääosa koostui perinteisistä tyolauluista, kuten metsurien tyolaulusta. Kalastajien tyolauluun liittyi hauska vaihe juopotteluun ja laiskotteluun taipuvatt kalastajan hokuttelusta toihin. Siihen liittyi varoituksia juopottelun ja laiskottelun lihottavasta sivuvaikutuksesta.

Hohdokkaimpia hetkiä koettiin Vietnamilaisen, yksikielisen "Havajikitaran" parissa. Soittimen nimi on Bau ja sitä soitetaan sekä kammensyrjällä näppäilemällä, samalla saman käden soimilla luonnonsäveliä luoden ja toisaalta kanteleen tapaan näppäillen. Soittimessa on myös vibrakampi, jolla saadaan



Kuva: Aki Paavola

myös lisää häkellyttäviä efektejä edellämaintittujen lisäksi. Mainio vempelo oli myös Koni -Vietnamilainen kaksikielinen jousisoitin, jolla soittaja jousenvedoin ja samalla suuta kaikupohjana käyttäen loihitti yläsävelsarjoja.

Vietnamilainen serenadi

Vietnamilainen Serenadi taas on siitä erikoinen, että mikäli serenadin kohde ei reagoi soittajaan millään tavalla, niin soitanta jatkuu kunnes neito taipuu kutsuun ja liittyy kutsuvaan huiluun. Areenalla seienadi sai hienon huipennuksen kun neito liittyi duettoon puhaltuen huilua toisesta päästä.

Loppuhuipennuksena kuultiin ja nahtiin kuuden perinteistä autototvea muistuttavan soittimen ja soittajansa hilliton taidonnäyte hitusta sävelmästä "Oh Susanna". Kahta pilleistä muusikko soitti kainaloillaan, Kahta kaulallaan ja kahta käsillään.

Kaikesta mielenkiintoisinta oli havaita vietnamilaisen tavam ratkaista materiaaliset puutteet mielikuvituksen käytöllä ja käsityöllä. Yhdellä kielellä voi soittaa jopa rikkaammin kuin moderneimmalla komppiuutte

KHAC CHI

Respect Ethnic & World Music Festival

Prague, Czech June 11-13, 2004

Ostrove Stvanice, Praha, 12 a 13. cervre

Autor: Tomáš S. Polivka foto: Vendula Zmeková



...
Jeden z nedeích vrcholu nastal hned na zacátku pfi vystoupeni vietnamského (momentálne v Kanade usazeného) páru **Khac Chi Ensemble**. Astrální tóny vyluzované ze soustavy bambusových perkusí, dlouhá flétna pro dva hráce, pomocí pácky modulovaná struna napnutá nad ozvucnicí z tlustého bambusového stonku, nozním pedálem ovládané bambusové špalky, vydávající příjemně vibrující basovy zvuk, zvláštní nástroje z hor severního Vietnamu I z jižních ostrovu, kde je Vietnamci “okoukali” od obyvatel Indonésievše doázalo vykouzlit nový, neznámy a dobrodružny zvukovy svet. Zvlášte kdyz oba aktéři ovládali nástroje s doslova jazzmanskym fortem. Vše pfdvedeno s jemnym orientálním humorem, nutno vzpomenout alespon scénku, kdy si hudebník poskládal kolem tela různé ladené bambusové flétny a hrál na ne pomocí gumovych balónku, které mackal nejen pazemi, ale tfeba i mezi tváří a ramenem. Aby dokázal “pouzitelnost” tohoto nástroje i pro jiné nez orientální stupnice, s úsmevem prehrál i melodii country tradicionálu
Oh, Susanna

KULTURA

13.6.2004

J. Moravčík je hudebí publicistor

Návšteva z Vietnamu

Tradicní hudba z Vietnamu rozhodne nepatří mezi casté hosty zdejších ani svetovych festivalu. Vystoupení souboru Khac Chi Ensemble, který se skládá z virtuozu na jednostrunnou citeru dan bau Ho Khac Chi (54) a vynikající zpěvačky Hoang Ngoc Bich, jez zároveň ovládá celou řadu vietnamskych bambusovych nástroju, je tak jednou z mála příležitostí, kdy se s touto hudbou muzeme potkat.

Vietnamští hudebníci jsou manželé, ziji jiz dvanáct let v kanadském Vancouveru a učí tam na univerzite. Prédtím však dlouhá léta studovali a vyucovali tradicní hudbu na Hanojské konzervatori, kde Ho Khac Chi vedl také Orchestr lidové hudby. Manželé navíc nekolik desetiletí sbírali po vietnamském venkove nahrávky a dávno zapomenuté nástroje, coz představuje takřka nadlidské úsilí. Ve Vietnamu, který byl po staletí krizovatkou kultur a civilizací, totiž najdeme pres šedesát národnostních menšin, vyznávajících buddhismus taoismus, přicemz jeho hudební kultura je asi 2400 let stará a rídí se mnoha ustálenými pravidly. Nástroje se podle Konfuciovy teorie, která se dostala do zeme v prvním tisíciletí behem cínského protektorátu, například radí do osmi kategorií: hedvábí, kámen, kuze, hlína, kov, vzduch, dřevo a bambus. Tomu odpovídá i jejich zvuk, který Khac Chi Ensemble zachovává v puvodní akustické podube. Na jeho koncerte se pak muzete setkat i s nástroji které zatím příliš neznají ani v samotném Vietnamu, coz se tyká staré kamenné marimby dan da, jednostrunných houslí k'ni, připomínajících lidsky hlas, xylofonu trung nebo unikátu horského národa Bahnar k'longput - na jednom konci zaslepenych bambusovych rour svázaných do tvaru Panovy flétny, které se rozezvucují tleskáním sevrenych dlaní.

Koncert Khac Chi Ensemble je teatrální a má také urcity nausmy charakter. Hudba nezapre cínské rysy a také indicky vliv improvizace. Nejsilneji ale vyniká její virtuózní slozka. Zvlášte Ho Khac Chi predvádí na jednostrunnou citeru skutecne neveritelné kousky.

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

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
2001

Friday September 14,

Teaching a universal language



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.



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 H.
I enjoyed the uniqueness of all the instruments. - Gary
I enjoyed different colored costumes. - Jonathan
I enjoyed their beautiful signing voices. - Angela
I enjoyed the large and smaller instruments - Davis
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 play the flute at the same time - Chris
I enjoyed when they taught us difference 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.
Depew Middle School.