

KHAC CHI

BAMBOO MUSIC

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STUDY GUIDE

“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



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BAMBOO MUSIC

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Khac Chi Bamboo Music 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, 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 Bamboo Music has released three CDs: "*The Sounds of Dan Bau*" 2006; "*Spirit of Vietnam*" 1999 - distributed by Festival Distribution in Canada and "*Moon Light in Vietnam*" 1997 - distributed by Rounder Record in US;

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ABOUT THE PERFORMERS

Chi Khac, Ho is the world's premiere virtuoso on the Dan Bau (one string zither). A professor of Hanoi Conservatory for 24 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 Bamboo Music.

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

Funny Bamboo Music features the classical, folk or contemporary music of Vietnam, as well as the music of the mountain people of the country. The songs are played on a variety of traditional, bamboo instruments native to Vietnam, as well as the instruments invented by Khac Chi Bamboo Music's members. The songs often accompanied by vocal music.

What to Watch for During the Performance

Students should watch for rare and unique instruments such as the dan bau (one-stringed zither) or the dan *trung* (suspended bamboo xylophone). Other instruments include a two-string violin used to play a children's musical fairy tale called "On the Mountain Top", and a long flute (invented by Chi Ho) that is played by two persons at the same time during the "Riding Horse" song. The haunting lyricism, energetic rhythms and fascinating timbres of Khac Chi Bamboo Music offer intriguing glimpses into the rich musical traditions from 4,000 years of Vietnamese culture.

More information about Khac Chi Bamboo Music, please visit: www.khacchi.com

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Khac Chi BAMBOO MUSIC – THE SCHOOL CONCERT PROGRAM

This program is a small sample of traditional instrumental and vocal music of Vietnam and minority cultures. It also showcases rare unique musical instruments that made by Bamboo from the people of Vietnam.

There will be commentary between the pieces describing the instruments aspects of Vietnamese culture and providing context for the music. Audience participation will be encouraged at points in the program.

- 1. Full moon dance** (Trad.)
Highlander music features the sound of a suspended bamboo xylophone and the dinhpa, which resemble the festivals of the highland people.
- 2. Wood cutter song** (Khac Chi Ho)
A high-energy piece, expressing the action of cutting trees in the forest. Audience participates by saying “Hay! Hay!” and guided how to make sounds by clapping their hands in front of their mouth.
- 3. On the mountain top** (Trad. Arr. By Bic Hoang)
This is children fairy tale music features the Koni- a unique two string violin from the mountain people of Vietnam.
- 4. Farmer’s song** (Folk song)
Farmers of central Vietnam sing this song during their long day of ploughing or working on the rice fields. Audiences sing a long.
- 5. Cham dance** (Trad.)
A festival dance piece of Cham people of central Vietnam
- 6. Bamboo Dance** (Folk dance)
Four students will be invited to play with bamboo tubes.
- 7. Forest Love** (Contemporary)
The joyful moments of the Vietnamese highland people who are in harmony with nature as they perform their daily activities.
- 8. Popular Children’s song** is played on the squeeze bamboo flute invented by Khac Chi Ho. Audiences sing along.
- 9. Riding Hose** (Folk song)
The song is played on a long flute, which two persons can play at the same time. The flute was invented by Khac Chi Ho
- 10. Popular Children’s songs**
Eight students will be invited to play the instruments. All the others participate by playing with their mouth as in the “Wood Cutter” song

Khac Chi BAMBOO MUSIC – TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

- Set up Time:** 45 min
Performance Length: 50 min (including Q & A)
Strike Time: 30 min
Space-performance: minimum wide; 5m / 16 ft
Minimum deep: 3,60m / 12 ft
Performance can be on stage, in a gymnasium or in a cafeteria
- Student/Custodian Help:** Where possible, Khac Chi Bamboo Music appreciates having four students (Grade 6+) or a custodian to assists in loading instrumental cases.
- Other:** Khac Chi Bamboo Music provides sound system. Two small desks are required for speakers, and an extension cord may be needed at some schools.
- Group Introduction:** At beginning of the performance, a staff member will need to introduce the group.
Khac Chi is pronounced “**Kak Chee**”
- A note to Schools:** *Some students will be invited on stage with KCBM during performance; photos could be taken for school record.*

Khac Chi BAMBOO MUSIC - INSTRUMENTS



Tre Lac is a pair of bamboo tubes mounted on a bamboo frame and tuned an octave apart. The tubes are in different lengths and are cut halves at the upper two-thirds. A node closes the lower end of each tube. Two prongs extend out and fit loosely into a corresponding slot of the horizontal base tube. The base of the frame is attached by a handle which held by a player. When shaken, the concussion of the tubes against the base produces a pitch. Since each instrument makes only one pitch, it takes many single tre lacs to make a complete melody.

Tre lac is popular throughout Southeast Asia, but originated from Indonesia with the name *Angklung*.

Khen is a six to fourteen-pipe bamboo mouth-organ instrument of Thai ethnic people who live on the Highland regions of Vietnam, with versions to be found in Laos, Northern Thailand and Southern China. Each tube contains a small bronze or silver reed. All tubes are bound together into two rows and extend through both sides of the wind chamber.

Khen is the exclusive instrument of men and played in entertainment activities. It is usually used accompanying singing and dancing in the moonlight. As nights fall, young men come and play Khen below houses-on-stilts of their beloved girls to open their hearts. Sometimes, Khen is played during working time such as on the way to the paddies.



Instruments invented and innovated by Khac Chi Bamboo Music's members



Sao dai is a novelty instrument, a very long bamboo flute that allows three or two players to play on it at once.

Khac Chi Ho adapted this instrument from the traditional flute for two players.

Dan quat

Dan Quat has two parts, which look like the paper hand fan. Each part has four bamboo flutes that connect with plastic boxes. The Player holds the instrument and presses it on any part of the body. Each flute can produced two pitches of an octave by changing air pressure.

Dan Quat is invented and made by Khac Chi Ho.



Sao Bop (squeezing-bamboo flutes)

Sao bop are bamboo flutes played with “turkey-baster-style” air bulbs so that one player can play several flutes just by squeezing the bulbs-end, which are held in player’s hands, under the arms and between player’s head and shoulders. Each flute can produce three-difference pitches by changing air pressure.

Sao bop is invented and made by Khac Chi Ho.

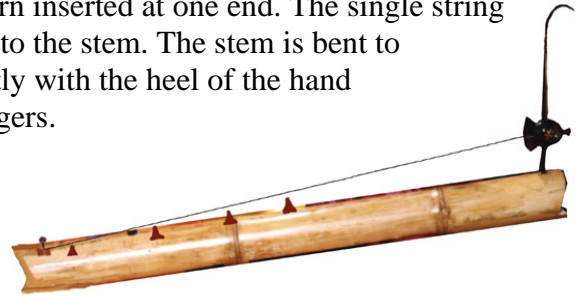
Tre tram (bass bamboo instrument) is a pair of long bamboo tubes mounted on a metal frame, joined to a wood base. Each bamboo tube has a pedal that is played by foot. The Tre Tram can be played on one or two bass tubes at the same time.

Together, Khac Chi Ho and Bic Hoang made this instrument to play duets.



Khac Chi BAMBOO MUSIC - INSTRUMENTS

Dan Bau (pronounced: dan bow) is one-a string zither native to Vietnam. It is constructed of a long narrow sound box, with a tall curved stem made from water buffalo horn inserted at one end. The single string runs between the sound box and a small wooden gourd attached to the stem. The stem is bent to change the pitch of the string. The player touches the string lightly with the heel of the hand at harmonic- producing nodal points while plucking with the fingers. This produces the *dan bau* characteristic high clear sound.



Khac Chi Ho, as one of his innovations to the *dan bau*, has added frets to the instrument's already complex array of pitch production mechanisms.

The bass bau was adapted from the *dan bau* to provide a musical range equivalent to that of a bass guitar. It is simply an electric *dan bau* with a very thick string on it.



K'Ni (Kr-knee) is a special form of stick fiddle found only in Vietnam. It does not have a resonating chamber or sound box. Rather, the strings are attached by silk cords to a small fish's scale or plastic resonating disc that is held in the player's mouth. The player's mouth acts as the resonating chamber and precise movements of the lips and tongue create a broad range of tonal colors and emotional expression, giving the *k'ni* its unique sound. Thus, the sounds are altered, almost evoking human pronunciation.

K'longput is another instrument unique to Vietnam. It is made from a series of large bamboo pipes of varying lengths, each closed at one end or open at both ends. The pipes are placed on their sides with the open ends facing the musician, who has no direct contact with the instrument. Instead, the player cups both hands and claps quietly in front of the open ends of the pipes, forcing air down the pipes to produce low resonant sounds.



T'rung is a suspended bamboo xylophone which closely associated with the spiritual life of the Bahnar, T'Sedan, Giarai, Ede and other ethnic minority people in the Central Highlands of Vietnam. The original instruments were simply made, using a series of bamboo pipes struck with small sticks.

There are three types of *T'rung*: high, medium and bass *t'rung*. It has been largely improved; the modern *t'rung* has three rows of pipes spanning three full octaves (about 48 tubes) and is fully chromatic.



Dinh Pa, found in the south central highland regions of Vietnam, is made from a number of bamboo tubes fastened in two rows and stood upright. It is played by striking the top ends of the pipes with a padded stick, although originally the open hand was used.

The *bass dinh pa* is simply a much larger version of the *dinh pa*.



GENERAL INTRODUCTION ABOUT VIETNAM



Vietnam is a multi-nationality country with 54 ethnic groups. Each ethnic group has developed its own language and cultural identity. Total area: 329,560 sq km but with the population of over 85 millions (2008). The *Viet (Kinh)* people account for 87% of the country's population.

Vietnam is located completely in the tropical zone. Northern has 4 seasons, Southern has 2 seasons, the rainy season and the dry season. Between these large delta regions in the north and south is the long and narrow Central Vietnam. The climate of Central Vietnam is often harsh, and subject to natural calamities such as typhoons.

In the past, the Vietnamese adopting many elements of the Chinese language then changed many Chinese words, gradually creating *Han-Viet* (Chinese-Vietnamese), which incorporated purely Vietnamese words. Under the French domination, *Han-Viet* characters were gradually eliminated and replaced by French. Some Western evangelists including Alexandre de Rhodes produced the National language characters; they cooperated with some Vietnamese to transcribe the Vietnamese language on

the basis of the Latin alphabet. The National language characters were completed and popularized to become a significant cultural tool in late 19th century. To this day, Vietnam is the only nation of Indochina which uses the Latin alphabet to write the national language.

Example: One word "MA" could be read in 6 tones with difference meanings

MA	MÀ	MÁ	MẠ	MÃ	MÃ
(ghost)	(preposition)	(mother)	(rice seeding)	(grave)	(horse)

A BRIEF HISTORY OF VIETNAMESE MUSIC

The resourceful nature of the culture and people of Vietnam is strong despite the troubled history of the country, which was often ruled by others. China, France, Japan, the United States and frequent battles between north and South Vietnam all impacted this country over the centuries. Fortunately, the traditions, particularly the music, stayed strong and have survived to this day. Home to many musical and theatrical innovations, the music of Vietnam is ancient. Some of the wind and percussion instruments date all the way back to the Bronze age of western Asia, around 1800 B.C. Many of the vocal traditions are also unique, such as "Hat Quan ho" In this special folk song from northern Vietnam, young men and women from different villages take turns singing to each other in a contest to measure their ability to create and sing extemporaneous songs and melodies.

Numerous forms of songs and music have also been created and retained. They include lullabies, children's songs, ritual songs, festivity songs, various work songs, courtship songs, riddle songs, melodies, and poem narration. There are also songs and music for groups, as well as for traditional theatre.

Vietnamese traditional music is diverse due to the various genres that took shape during different periods of history. Songs of the same genre often differ very much in melody and expression from ethnicity to ethnicity.

The music played in the performances by *Khac Chi Bamboo Music* - festival dances, work songs, wonderful vocals - is just a small sample of the rich, resilient heritage that still thrives and prospers in the land of Vietnam.

PRE-SHOW ACTIVITIES

Use the following activities to prepare your students for the Khac Chi Bamboo Music Performance

Primary

1. Locate Vietnam on a world map or globe. Talk about what other countries it is near, the people who live there, and some of the history, found in the introductory section.
2. Show the pictures of the instruments and the costumes and ask the children to comment on what they think they might see and hear when they go to the concert.
3. Make a chart of instruments that they know. Add the Vietnamese instruments to the chart after the show.

Junior/Intermediate

1. Compare a map of Vietnam to a map of your country, province/ state or your country of origin. Do you see similarities? Differences?
2. Discuss how the borders of these places and their proximity to the ocean might have encouraged or influenced their development.
3. Do you know any wind instruments, string instruments or percussion instruments? Can you write down its name; describe what its pitch (low or high,...), and what kind of material is the instrument made from?

POST-SHOW ACTIVITIES

Discussion Questions:

1. Describe what you saw.
 - What instruments did you recognize?
 - Which ones were new to you?
 - Was the clothing worn by the performers a style you had seen before?
2. Describe the music you heard in the performance.
 - How was the music different from music with which you are already familiar?
 - How was it similar?
 - Did any of the sounds that you hear remind you of other sounds? Which one?
3. Talk about the instruments you saw and the different ways they were played. Add these instruments to the chart made before the performance.
 - If you were going to learn to play one of those instruments, which one would you choose?
 - Do any of them remind you of the other instruments you know? Which one?
4. Many of the songs were sung by the Vietnamese people as they worked at various jobs, such as cutting trees, harvesting rice or other everyday tasks.
 - What is the purpose of a "work" song?
 - Do you know any working songs from your culture?
 - What song, if any, do you sing when you are working?

Social Studies/ Science

Many of the instruments played during the performance are made from bamboo that can be easily found in the hilly countryside of Vietnam, with different sizes of bamboo being the most often used.

- In which countries would you find Bamboo Trees?
- Do you know about the bamboo tree? Can you draw it?
- Why is bamboo a good material for musical instruments? (e.g. hollow, light, plentiful etc.)

- Beside the musical instruments, do you know what else bamboo can be used for? Can you draw pictures of these items?
Visit <http://www.jmbamboo.com/auses.htm> for more information or you can search “bamboo” at Google.ca
- What kinds of instruments could you make if you lived in a desert? A forest? A northern land with lots of ice and snow?
- Select one geographic area and write a short paragraph that describes what kind of materials you could find, there, which could be used to make musical instruments. Then select an actual country, and read about the music and instruments indigenous to the area. See if you were successful in identifying some of the possible types of instruments

Activities to Enhance the Experience

1. Making instrument with cardboard pipes or PVC (plastic) pipes.
 - Cut the cardboard/PVC pipes in different length
 - Use the end of the tube to trace some circles on a piece of heavy cardboard. Cut out the circles.
 - Close one end of each pipe by taping the circle to the pipe. (buy caps to close one end of PVC pipes)
 - Play the instrument by cupping both hands and clapping quietly in front of the open ends of the pipes, forcing air down the pipes to produce low resonant sounds (as described in Klongput instrument);
 - You can also play by striking the top ends of the pipes with padded sticks, made of cardboard (as described in Dinhpa instrument); or simply hit a pipe on the ground.
 - Put some small rocks stone into the pipe and close the open end to make a shaker
2. The Farmer song, as sung by Khac Chi Bamboo Music, is an improvisation. The students can make their own song by using the chorus “La Hu La Khoan” * (la re mi sol / A DE G) of the Farmer’s song. The song is in a call and response form. The main melody can be sung and improvised by a single person or duet, and every one sings the chorus. The chorus “la hu la khoan” doesn’t have meaning, but it keeps rhythm to help people working together.

For example: My name is Henry	(every one: La hu la khoan - Pronounced: la hu la koan)
I like to study	La hu la khoan
Math, computer, science are my favourite	La hu la khoan, La hu la khoan
I am Linda	La hu la khoan,
I like pizza	La hu la khoan,
La la la la	La hu la khoan, La hu la khoan

- All children, at the same time, mime a work action such as chopping wood, rolling dough, painting or playing the instruments that Bic and Chi played or any instruments you know.
 - Individual children mime the actions while others guess what each other are doing.
 - Sing the chorus above with any working song that children know.
3. Create sound-scape by following the musicians’ technique of using their hands and mouths to create sounds.
 - The Primary could do this activity in a large group, while the older students do it in groups to create a "sounding song" by snapping fingers, clap hands, make sounds with your mouth, body etc
 - Vary rhythms like 2/4, 4/4, fast, slow..., dynamics (volume) from soft to loud and pitch from low to high and backward to influence and focus the effect your song creates.
 - Present your piece to the class.
 - Next, try larger group songs or solo performances enhanced by a "backup' group of hand and mouth sound makers. Then give a title to your song

CURRICULUM CONNECTION

The following are some of the North America Curriculum music expectations addressed by the Khac Chi Bamboo Music performance. Attending the performance of Khac Chi Bamboo Music and taking part in the follow-up activities will give the students a chance to demonstrate achievement levels in these expectations.

Primary

Identify the individual instruments of the woodwind, brass, string, and percussion families;

Write new words to familiar melodies, using their knowledge of rhythm to ensure that the new text fits with the melody;

Express their response to music from a variety of cultures and historical periods

Identify and explain the effects of different musical choices

Junior

Identify simple structural patterns in music that they sing, play, or hear

Identify and perform music from various cultures and historical periods;

Identify different kinds of tone colour in various performing ensembles

Describe briefly the construction and use of an instrument

Intermediate

Describe the history, construction, and use of an instrument

Sing familiar songs and manipulate a musical element to change the overall effect

Describe their response to a musical performance in their community.

Describe some aspects of the historical context of music that they sing, play, or listen to

There are also opportunities for addressing some of the Social Studies expectations concerning the history and geography of Vietnam. (E.g. Grade 2 Features of Communities around the world; grade 3: Urban and Rural communities; Grade 7/8 Physical and Human Geography.)

LINKS

- Download general information about Vietnam: www.khacchi.com/presenters/info4presenters.htm
- History of Vietnam: www.viettouch.com/hist
- Vietnamese Traditional Orchestras: www.vnstyle.vdc.com.vn/vim/english/orchestras/index.html
- Vietnamese Musical instruments: www.vnstyle.vdc.com.vn/vim/english/music_instrument/index.html
- More information: www.vietnamtourism.com/e_pages/country/overview.asp

Write the name of the instruments under or beside each photo. Describe its sound and how it is played. Hint: Đàn bầu (1 string), Đàn quạt (its shape like an Asian handy fan), Khèn (blow to creat sound), K'longput (clap hand to creat sound), Koni (2 strings violin), Tre lắc (bamboo shaker), T'rung (bamboo xylophone), Sáo bóp (squeezing flute), Sáo dài (long fulte).

