

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISSERTATION

1. Doctoral candidate: Nguyen Thi Thanh Nga
2. Dissertation title: Tao Mat's contribution to the inheritance and development of Hat Cheo – a traditional Vietnamese Musical Performance Art in his play *Bài ca giữ nước* in three volumes
3. Major: Theory and History of Theater – Code: 9210221
4. Scientific Supervisor: Prof. Dr Le Thi Hoai Phuong
5. Institution: Vietnam National Institute of Culture and Arts Studies (VICAS)

### ❖ Content:

- **Aims of the Study:** To study about the inheritance and development of Hat Cheo – a traditional Vietnamese Musical Performance Art in his play *Bài ca giữ nước* in three volumes, PhD student aims to draw professional lessons and experience for Cheo's composing, producing and performing in modern life with the motto of maintaining and preserving traditional values of ancient Cheo, also developing it to integrate with modern Vietnam society.

- **Objectives of the Study:** The main research objectives in this dissertation are the creativeness of a talented composer, director Tao Mat with his inheritance and development of this traditional Vietnamese performance art in his play *Bài ca giữ nước*.

- **Methods of the Study:** The interdisciplinary research methodology, including theoretical studies (as a critical method), literary theory, and cultural studies (focus on folklore), history studies and fieldwork methodology.

- **Findings and conclusions:** This dissertation on the theme of Tao Mat's contribution to the inheritance and development of Hat Cheo – a traditional Vietnamese Musical Performance Art in his play *Bài ca giữ nước* in three volumes through 3 chapters studying on the relevant issues on the field, theoretical and practical, can draw some key conclusions. These conclusions are both answers to the dissertation's research questions and scientific hypotheses, and show the novelty of this work.

1. This dissertation has generalized and systematized some relevant theoretical issues related to traditional Vietnamese art – Cheo, which was used as a basis for the study of dissertation issues. That is the concept, the basic art principles in traditional Cheo that are related to the content of this dissertation. An overview of the process of inheritance and renewal of traditional Cheo from Cheo Van minh to modern Cheo, including the contribution of Tao Mat – the late People's Artist Tao Mat with his work: *Bài ca giữ nước*. This is also considered as the practical basis for the writer to study his inheritance and development of *Bài ca giữ nước*.

2. Based on theoretical and practical background, Tao Mat's inheritance and development of traditional performance art – Cheo on 4 aspects: story building and imitation, character building, creating and using Cheo melody; composition method, staging and performing arts.

The result after studying on 4 aspects as mentioned above is the specific answer to the general question of this thesis: Which factors of traditional Cheo did Tao Mat inherit and develop and how did he apply it in composing and staging *Bài ca giữ nước* – the three historic Cheo performance?

3. Through analyzing and evaluating the success of Tao Mat and creative artists who created *Bài ca giữ nước*, the thesis asserted that science hypothesis of this paper is correct, which can become a valuable lesson for modern Cheo's artists. That is, firstly, the creating, staging and performing of this traditional art can only truly succeed when the authors, directors and artists can understand, master its artistic principles and know how to apply them creatively. Secondly, Tao Mat and his partners has inherited composing method from traditional artists in a selective and creative way for "simultaneous execution of 4 stages" can process effectively; which has a huge contribution to the success of *Bài ca giữ nước*. However, this is not the only reason of this great success because there are many factors also contributed to the achievement of *Bài ca giữ nước*, among which there is a absolutely important cause, that is Tao Mat's outstanding talents, intelligence in addition to his impressed passion in Cheo – Vietnam traditional art.

4. **The success of his play:** *Bài ca giữ nước* in 3 volumes has values in many aspects: the literacy value of script, the director talent, the performing arts, music, decorations, the sound, the light... all of these has made a powerful synergy that affect audience's mind and heart. Tao Mat was successful because he knew how to select and promote the essence of ancient Cheo and how to make its traditional beauty become more fluttering, beautiful and familiar with modern life.

Tao Mat's success once again reaffirmed the cultural position of Cheo in modern life and its enduring value in process of Vietnam's integration into the world.

❖ **The dissertation's new contributions:** with the approach to *Bài ca giữ nước* on 2 aspects of literacy scenario and performance play, the thesis has found out some brand new discoveries, opinions and assessment compared with the previous researches, thanks to the result of fieldwork studies, gathering of information through interviewing with artists. From that point, there has been a more vivid view of creative work of Tao Mat in composing and staging *Bài ca giữ nước*.

In conclusion, the thesis about Tao Mat's contribution to the succession and development of Hat Cheo – a traditional Vietnamese Musical Performance Art in his play *Bài ca giữ nước* in three volumes has resolved proposed goals and tasks for this thesis. The author hopes that these research findings and results can contribute a minor part to the study of Cheo in general and Tao Mat's Cheo in particular./.

Scientific Supervisor

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