

## IV. ICH Practitioners

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Below are the resumes of a number of master folk artists on the list of possible candidates for the state title of “Excellent Master Folk Artist” (in Vietnamese: Nghệ nhân ưu tú) - 1st batch (September 2015)

### Traditional Performing Arts

#### 1) Mr. Lâm Phên (Lâm Phene), Khmer people

- Birth year: 1957
- Career: farmer
- Location: Ba Se village, Lương Hòa commune, Châu Thành district, Trà Vinh province
- Covered ICH element: Bearer of various objects associated with traditional knowledge and folk performing arts in Khmer culture
- Activities:
  - Having begun his practice in 1990, he now has 24 years of experience in producing different types of masks for traditional and folk dances; crafting traditional musical instruments; transmitting folk dances and teaching others how to play traditional music of the Khmer nation. During his career, he has trained 40 students, among whom, Mr. Lâm Sơ Vi is a representative.
  - He is an active member of the Khmer popular performing art team of Ba Se village, Lương Hòa commune, Châu Thành district, Trà Vinh province.
- Some of his awards: Certificate of merit by the Department of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Trà Vinh province (2003); Certificates of merit by the Chairperson of the People’s Committee of Trà Vinh province and by the People’s Committee of Châu Thành district (2013); Currently, his profile document has been submitted to the Ministerial Professional Council for assessment regarding the awarding of the state title of “Excellent Master Folk Artist” to submit to the highest ranking council for its consideration of the first coming batch, which is to be declared in September this year (2015).

- Financial support: At present, he receives no government subsidy, finances, etc., but he will be supported upon becoming an “Excellent Master Folk Artist” in accordance with state policies.
- Source: Resume of the artist represented by the Trà Vinh provincial level council for assessment regarding the awarding of the state title of “Excellent Master Folk Artist.”

## **2) Mr. Thạch Ca Ri Nô, Khmer people**

- Birth year: 1948
- Career: carpenter
- Location: Lương Hòa A commune, Châu Thành district, Trà Vinh province
- Covered ICH element: Knowledge of producing and playing Khmer traditional musical instruments
- Activities:
  - He began learning his craft in the 1960s from Mr. Thạch Ni, who has now passed away, and from his father, Thạch An, a carpenter.
  - He started his job in 1966 and now has 48 years of experience in producing and using all types of Khmer traditional musical instruments and disseminating and transmitting different traditions of his nation. During his career, he has trained 25 students, among whom, Mr. Thạch Acara is a representative (excluding those who participate in training classes that he hosts).
  - From 1981 to the present, he has been invited by the People’s Committee of Cà Mau and Vĩnh Long provinces to produce 21 sets of traditional musical instruments and work as a travelling lecturer on how to play those musical instruments for many districts’ culture divisions and institutions.
- Awards: Currently, his profile document has been submitted to the Ministerial Professional Council for assessment regarding the awarding of the state title of “Excellent Master folk Artist” to submit to the highest ranking council for its consideration of the first coming batch, which is to be declared in September this year (2015).
- Financial support: At present, he receives no government subsidy, finances, etc., but he will be supported upon becoming an “Excellent Master folk Artist” in accordance with state policies.
- Source: Resume of the artist represented by the Trà Vinh provincial level council for assessment regarding the awarding of the state title of “Excellent Master Folk Artist”.

### 3) Mr. Nguyễn Ban, Việt people

- Birth year: 1941
- Career: farmer
- Location: Tiên Điền commune, Nghi Xuân district, Hà Tĩnh province
- Covered ICH element: Ví and Giặm folk songs of Nghệ Tĩnh; Ca trù singing and other items of folk performing arts.
- Activities:
  - Having begun his career in 1984, he now has 30 years of experience practicing different genres of folk performing arts including Ví and Giặm folk songs of Nghệ Tĩnh and Ca trù singing. He has composed over 50 pieces of lyrics and songs of these folk genres. In addition, he has helped revive other genres of intangible cultural heritage that were almost lost or were at risk of disappearing.
  - In 1984, as the head of the Division of Culture and Information, he was the first person to revive Ví and Giặm folk songs of Nghệ Tĩnh in Nghi Xuân district after many years without their practice.
  - He has trained 36 students, among whom Mr. Võ Danh Tuấn and Ms. Đặng Hồng Vân are representatives.
- Some of his awards: Certificate of merit from the Ministry of Culture and Information (Today Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism)(2001); certificate of merit from the People's Committee of Hà Tĩnh province (2010); an award for the lyric work of "Fishers' longing for Uncle Hồ" at the competition for composing folk songs held by the Department of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Trà Vinh province (2003); certificates of merit from the Chairperson of the People's Committee of Trà Vinh province and from the People's Committee of Châu Thành district (2013); Currently, his profile document has been submitted to the Ministerial Professional Council for assessment regarding the awarding of the state title of "Excellent Master Folk Artist" to submit to the highest ranking council for its consideration and possible rewarded the title of the first coming batch, which is to be declared in September this year (2015).
- Financial support: At present, he receives no government subsidy, finances, etc., but he will be supported upon becoming an "Excellent Master Folk Artist" in accordance with state policies.
- Source: Resume of the artist represented by the Hà Tĩnh provincial level council for assessment regarding the awarding of the state title of "Excellent Master Folk Artist."

#### 4) Mr. Trần Khánh Cẩm, Việt people

- Birth year: 1939
- Career: farmer
- Location: Kỳ Bắc commune, Kỳ Anh district, Hà Tĩnh province
- Covered ICH element: Ví and Giặm folk songs of Nghệ Tĩnh (domain of folk performing arts).
- Activities:
  - Having begun his practice in 1953, he has now 61 years of experience practicing and transmitting the genre. He has deep knowledge of the associated skills and techniques and can beautifully perform many melodies and songs of Ví and Giặm, especially such old songs as Ví of weaving, rice planting or boat rowing and Giặm of lullabies, etc. He has composed many lyric songs of Ví and Giặm. In addition, he has made many contributions to the research, collection, inventorying, and composing of new songs and the preservation and revival of cultural spaces of the genre.
  - At the age of 10, he knew how to sing many folk songs.
  - In 1953, he participated in the performing art club of the commune, where he learned many lyrics and songs of Ví and Giặm from Mr. Trần Đức Duy, a famous master folk artist.
  - In 1968, he set up a performing art team in Kỳ Bắc commune, Kỳ Anh district, Hà Tĩnh province and a Ví and Giặm folk song of Nghệ Tĩnh club, which was composed of 20 members. Both the club and team have performed many times in various localities.
  - He has opened Ví and Giặm transmitting classes and has already trained 82 students, among whom Ms. Trần Thị Hiền, Nguyễn Thị Duyên, Nguyễn Thị Trang and Nguyễn Thị Cẩm Thơ are representatives.
- Some of his awards:
  - In 2011, he won a prize for his performance of the song “Ô lục soạn” at the festival of folk songs of Việt Nam, which was organized by the Việt Nam Television Station;
  - In 2012, he was recognized and rewarded the title of “Folk artist” by the Association of Vietnamese Folklorists and won the prize of “excellent performance” dedicated to old people at the Festival of Ví and Giặm folk songs of Nghệ Tĩnh region, which was co-organized by the People’s Committees of Nghệ An and Hà Tĩnh provinces;

- Currently, his profile document has been submitted to the Ministerial Professional Council for assessment regarding the awarding of the state title of “Excellent Master Folk Artist” to submit to the highest ranking council for its consideration of the first coming batch, which is to be declared in September this year (2015).
- Financial support: At present, he receives no government subsidy, finances, etc., but he will be supported upon becoming an “Excellent Master Folk Artist” in accordance with state policies.
- Source: Resume of the artist represented by the Hà Tĩnh Provincial Level Council for assessment regarding the awarding of the state title of “Excellent Master Folk Artist.”

### 5) Mr. Nguyễn Thanh Minh, Việt people

- Birth year: 1944
- Career: farmer
- Location: Hương Bình commune, Hương Khê district, Hà Tĩnh province
- Covered ICH element: Ví and Giặm folk songs of Nghệ Tĩnh (domain of folk performing arts).
- Activities:
  - Having begun his career in 1962, he now has 52 years of experience practicing and transmitting Ví and Giặm folk songs of Nghệ Tĩnh. He has deep knowledge of the associated skills and techniques and can beautifully perform over 30 old songs of Ví and Giặm. In addition, he also composes and creates many melodies and songs of the genre, especially such old songs as Ví of weaving, rice planting or boat rowing and Giặm of lullabies, etc. He has composed many lyric songs of Ví and Giặm. In addition, he has made many contributions to the research, collection, inventorying, and composing of new songs and the preservation and revival of cultural spaces of the genre.
  - In 1962, he participated in a class for Ví and Giặm, and immediately after was directly transmitted to Trần Đức Duy, an Excellent Master Folk Artist.
  - Since 1972, he has composed many new songs for Ví and Giặm, participated in various national competitions and transmitted it to 160 trainees of many generations of Ví and Giặm folk songs lovers. Among them, Ms. Hải Vân, Minh Phượng, Việt Hà, Diệu Hàng and Mr. Đậu Thắng Lợi are representatives.
- Some of his awards:

- In 1980, he was awarded the Certificate of Merit by the Ministry of Culture and Information (the MOCST today)
- In 1994, he won the Gold Medal at the Festival of Folk Songs, which was organized by the Ministry of Culture and Information (MOCST)
- In 1997, he won another Gold Medal at the National Popular Arts Festival, which was organized by the Ministry of Culture and Information (MOCST)
- In 2011, he won a prize for his artwork “Song of festival” at the Competition of Composing Folk Lyrics
- In 2012, he was recognized and rewarded the title “Folk Artist” by the Association of Vietnamese Folklorists.
- Currently, his profile document has been submitted to the Ministerial Professional Council for assessment regarding the awarding of the state title of “Excellent Master Folk Artist” to submit to the highest ranking council for its consideration of the first coming batch, which is to be declared in September this year (2015).
- Financial support: At present, he receives no government subsidy, finances, etc., but he will be supported upon becoming an “Excellent Master Folk Artist” in accordance with state policies.
- Source: Resume of the artist represented by the Hà Tĩnh provincial level council for assessment regarding the awarding of the state title of “Excellent Master Folk Artist.”

## 6) Mrs. Vũ Thị Thanh Minh, Việt people

- Birth year: 1954
- Career: farmer
- Location: Cẩm Mỹ commune, Cẩm Xuyên district, Hà Tĩnh province
- Covered ICH element: Ví and Giặm folk songs of Nghệ Tĩnh (domain of folk performing arts).
- Activities:
  - Having begun her career in 1970, she now has 44 years of experience practicing and transmitting Ví and Giặm folk songs of Nghệ Tĩnh. She has collected many melodies and songs of old Ví and Giặm folk songs; revived a number of old performing spaces of the genre; and revised, composed, and organized performances. She sings beautifully Ví and Giặm songs, particularly the old songs of the Cẩm Xuyên, Thạch Hà, Kỳ Anh, and Can Lộc regions.

- From 1969 to 1988, she participated in many performances in various performance groups.
- Since 1989, she has been active in joining popular activities.
- She has transmitted Ví and Giặm folk songs of Nghệ Tĩnh to 80 trainees.
- Some of her awards:
  - In 2005, she was awarded the Certificate of Merit by the Ministry of Interior.
  - In 2012, she was recognized and rewarded the title of “Folk Artist” by the Association of Vietnamese Folklorists.
  - Currently, her profile document has been submitted to the Ministerial Professional Council for assessment regarding the awarding of the state title of “Excellent Master Folk Artist” to submit to the highest ranking council for its consideration of the first coming batch, which is to be declared in September this year (2015).
- Financial support: At present, she receives no government subsidy, finances, etc., but she will be supported upon becoming an “Excellent Master Folk Artist” in accordance with state policies.
- Source: Resume of the artist represented by the Hà Tĩnh Provincial Level Council for assessment regarding the awarding of the state title of “Excellent Master Folk Artist.”

#### **7) Mr. Nguyễn Văn Kiên, Viet people**

- Birth year: 1925
- Career: Folk Artist
- Location: Hai Duong
- Covered ICH element: Water puppetry (domain of folk performing arts)
- Ability and activities:
  - Having practiced this folk art for 54 years, he has mastered all the puppetry techniques and has a profound understanding of the art of water puppet performance and its tradition.
  - In 1999, he contributed to the recovery of the traditional water puppet performing art of Hai Dương province and with the other members of his troupe, he has maintained its activities, for example, by taking part in the Hue Cultural Festival in 2004; the National Water Puppet Festival in 2005, 2006 and 2011; provincial-level festivals; and other performance activities at the Vietnam Museum of Ethnology, etc.
  - He has trained 5 students, including folk artist Nguyễn Văn Uẩn.

- In 2005, he won two gold and three silver medals at the National Water Puppet Festival in Phu Tho province.
- In 2006, he won the a prize at the National Competition organized by the Sweden-Vietnam Foundation.
- In 2011, he won first place at the National Water Puppet Festival.
- In 2012, the Water Puppet performing art of Hai Duong province was inscribed in the National List of Intangible Cultural Heritage.
- Financial support: At present, he receives no government subsidy, finances, etc., but he will be supported upon becoming an “Excellent Master Folk Artist” in accordance with state policies.
- Source: Resume of the artist represented by the Hà Tĩnh Provincial Level Council for assessment regarding the awarding of the state title of “Excellent Master Folk Artist.”

## **Social Customs and Beliefs**

### **8) Mrs. Vũ Thị Diệu, Viet people**

- Birth year: 1940
- Career: Folk Artist
- Location: Hưng Yên province
- Covered ICH element: Châu Văn ritual, Ca trù singing (domain of social customs and beliefs and performing arts).
- Ability and activities:
  - With 68 years of experience in Châu văn and Ca Tru, she can sing different types of these two genres with all the most popular melodies, such as: Bỉ, Mười, Phú, Dọc, Cờn, Kiều Dương, etc. She is also very skillful in breathing and vocal technique and articulation. She has mastered technical skills, including five basic clapper techniques and 9 poetry songs.
  - In 2012, she became vice-director of the Đào Đăng Ca Trù club.
  - In 2014, she participated in the National Ca Trù Festival.
  - She has transmitted Ca Trù singing knowledge and skills to 35 students to present.
  - In 2013, she was awarded the Certificate of Merit by the President of the People’s Committee of Hưng Yên Province.
  - In 2014, she was awarded the Certificate of Merit at the National Ca Trù Festival.



- Financial support: At present, she receives no government subsidy, finances, etc., but she will be supported upon becoming an “Excellent Master Folk Artist” in accordance with state policies.
- Educational background:
  - She used to follow her grandmother and her mother to their performances when she was 6 years old and then joined the local cultural troupe when she was 15 years old. At the age of 20, she joined the cultural troupe of her home district and began her studies at the National Chèo performance in Troupe 2.
  - In 1961, she attended Chèo and Ca Trù and traditional singing class at Ngoc Tinh ward, Hung Yen province
  - In 2000, she became a Ca Trù student of the folk artist Phạm Văn Sáu in Khoai Chau, Nghệ An province.
- Source: Resume of the artist represented by the People’s Committee of Hưng Yên Province for assessment regarding the awarding of the state title of “Excellent Master Folk Artist.”

#### **9) Mrs. Lê Thị Bích Thảo, Viet people**

- Birth year: 1948
- Career: Folk artist
- Location: Hưng Yên province
- Covered ICH element: Châu Văn ritual (domain of social customs and beliefs)
- Activities:
  - She has deep knowledge of the belief of the Mother Goddess and has experience in the practice of Châu Văn ritual, including performance techniques. She has practiced the ritual continuously from 1970 to the present.
  - She participates in many festivals of Châu Văn ritual and national as well as international workshops and seminars in different places all over the country and overseas as well.
  - She has transmitted her knowledge and skills to 60 students in all.
  - In 2013, she was awarded the Certificate of Merit by the Vietnam Federation of UNESCO Associations.
  - In 2013 and 2014 she was awarded the Certificate of Merit for her contributions to the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage by the Association of Cultural Heritage of Vietnam.

- Financial support: At present, she receives no government subsidy, finances, etc., but she will be supported upon becoming an “Excellent Master Folk Artist” in accordance with state policies.
- Educational background:
  - In 1970, she was a student of folk artist Dao Tien Hai at Nap temple and artist Pham Văn Diệp at Bao Loc temple in Nam Dinh province.
  - In 2000, she became a Ca Trù student of folk artist Phạm Văn Sáu in Khoái Châu, Nghe An province.
- Source: Resume of the artist represented by the People’s Committee of Hung Yên Province for assessment regarding the awarding of the state title of “Excellent Master Folk Artist.”

#### **10) Mrs. Bà Nguyễn Thị Tuyết, Viet people**

- Birth year: 1982
- Career: Folk artist
- Location: Bồ Đề, Long Biên, Hà Nội
- Covered ICH element: Châu Văn/Lên đồng ritual (domain of social customs and beliefs)
- Ability and activities:
  - From 2008-2014 she participated in many festivals of Châu Văn rituals in various places all over the country and overseas as well.
  - She has a good knowledge of and is skillful at playing Nguyệt musical instruments to accompany, sing and perform all the 36 incarnations of Lên đồng ritual and in various other performances related to Châu Văn, Chèo, Quan Họ, etc.
- Financial support: At present, she receives no government subsidy, finances, etc., but she will be supported upon becoming an “Excellent Master Folk Artist” in accordance with state policies.
- Educational background:
  - She was born into a family that follows the age-old tradition of practicing Châu văn/Lên đồng and Chèo.
  - In 2010 she graduated from the National Music Academy of Vietnam in the ology of Nguyệt (moon shaped) musical instrument.
- Source: Resume of the artist represented by the People’s Committee of Hung Yên Province for assessment regarding the awarding of the state title of “Excellent Master Folk Artist.”

#### **11) Mr. Lý Đại Thông, Dao people**

- Birth year: 1958

- Career:
- Location: Quận Bạ district, Hà Giang province
- Covered ICH element: Cấp sắc ritual of the Dao people (domain of Social customs and beliefs)
- Ability and activities:
  - Having begun his career in 1982 and now has 33 years of experience preserving and practicing traditional customs and Cấp sắc ritual of the Dao people.
  - Beginning 10 years ago, he started transmitting his knowledge to the younger generation and during his career, he has trained 18 students, among whom, Mr. Lý Quốc Thắng (1968) is a representative
- Awards: Currently, his profile document has been submitted to the Ministerial Professional Council for assessment regarding the awarding of the state title of “Excellent Master Folk Artist” to submit to the highest ranking council for its consideration of the first coming batch, which is to be declared in September this year (2015).
- Educational background: From 1975-1982, he learned the ritual of Cấp sắc from his brother, Mr. Lý Đại Minh;
- Financial support: At present, he receives no government subsidy, finances, etc., but he will be supported upon becoming an “Excellent Master Folk Artist” in accordance with state policies.
- Source: Resume of the artist represented by the Trà Vinh provincial level council for assessment regarding the awarding of the state title of “Excellent Master Folk Artist.”

## **12) Mr. Sìn Văn Phong, Pà Thẻn people**

- Birth year: 1956
- Career: Shaman/sorcerer
- Location: Tân Bắc commune, Quang Bình district, Hà Giang province
- Covered ICH element: worshipping ritual in the fire-jump festival of the Pà Thẻn people (domain of Social customs and beliefs)
- Ability and activities:
  - Having begun his career in 1990, he now has 24 years of experience preserving and practicing traditional customs and the worshipping ritual in the Fire-jump Festival of the Pà Thẻn people.
  - At the age of 28, he started learning the art of sorcery from his father. At 29 he was promoted, recognized by the spirits and gods as a First-level sorcerer, and could practice.

- At 30, he was promoted to Second-level sorcerer and could worship and pray for ancestors, the god of the earth for good lucks when building a new house, a weeding, and perform the worship rituals of the Fire-Dance festival.
- At 31, he was promoted to Third-level sorcerer to guard his shaman teacher and his family.
- At 32, he was promoted to Fourth-level sorcerer to pray for bad luck to be relieved and for death to be sent to the second world of the ancestors.
- At 40, he was promoted to Fifth-level sorcerer to pray and could request the gods to come help and wear the special costumes of a master sorcerer.
- At 47, he reached the seventh level – the highest level of sorcery and could request the gods to come help immediately.
- During his career, he has trained 04 students, of whom, Sìn Ngọc Thái (1988) is a representative.
- Awards:
  - He was granted the Certificate of Merit by the Museum of Vietnamese Ethnic Minority People of Việt Nam in 2010.
  - Currently, his profile document has been submitted to the Ministerial Professional Council for assessment regarding the awarding of the state title of “Excellent Master Folk Artist” to submit to the highest ranking council for its consideration of the first coming batch, which is to be declared in September this year (2015).
- Financial support: At present, he receives no government subsidy, finances, etc., but he will be supported upon becoming an “Excellent Master Folk Artist,” in accordance with state policies.
- Source: Resume of the artist represented by the Hà Giang provincial level council for assessment regarding the awarding of the state title of “Excellent Master Folk Artist.”

## **Craftsmanship**

### **13) Mr. Lê Đình Nghiêñ, Viet/Kinh people**

- Birth year: 1950
- Career: Folk artist. He is the last folk artist of the Hàng Trống paintings craftsmanship
- Location: Ha Noi City

- Covered ICH element: Hàng Trống folk painting (domain of craftsmanship).
- Activities:
  - Painting, printings and performing other steps to accomplish Hàng Trống wood block printing
  - Mastering technical skills
  - Doing researches, collecting, restoring silk art works and folk paintings
  - Taking care of conserving folk paintings and silk paintings at the Vietnam Fine Arts Museum. He is now transmits the skills related to his career to his only student and son.
- Some of his awards:
  - In 2004, he was rewarded the title of “Hanoi Folk Artist” by the People’s Committee of Hanoi City.
  - In 2000, he was awarded the Certificate of Merit by the Tourist Department, an affiliated body to the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism.
  - In 2000, 2003 and 2006 he was awarded the Certificate of Merit by the Ministry of Culture and Information (currently, the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism).
  - In 2006, he was awarded the Certificate of Merit by the People’s Committee of Thừa Thiên Huế province.
- Financial support: At present, he receives no government subsidy, finances, etc., but he will be supported upon becoming an “Excellent Master Folk Artist,” in accordance with state policies.
- Source: Resume of the artist represented by the Hà Nội Provincial Level Council for assessment regarding the awarding of the state title of “Excellent Master Folk Artist.”
- Educational background: He is the posterity of a traditional Hàng Trống wood-block painting family of many generations, including his father, Lê Đình Liệu, a Folk Artist.
- Source: Resume of the artist represented by the Hanoi People’s Committee for assessment regarding the awarding of the state title of “Excellent Master Folk Artist.”