PRESERVE AND DEVELOP CULTURAL AND ANTHROPOLOGICAL VALUES IN
THE ART OF HÁT XẨM

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The form of busking for a living developed in every region of Vietnam. It is called Hát
Xẩm in the North where it is a very organized and rule-oriented profession organized into guilds.
In the Central and Southern regions, however, Hát Xẩm is more secular. Therefore, each region
has its own anthropological and cultural identity of Hát Xẩm.

Unlike in the North, Hát Xẩm in the Central and Southern regions does not have its own
system of melodies, characteristics or styles. Central and Southern Hát Xẩm does not have
formal conventions or organized association. It is rather practiced liberally by freelancers.

By analyzing the similarities and differences in the singing styles in Northern, Central,
and Southern regions, the paper concludes that the central themes are filial piety, homeland love,
romantic love, and other themes common to humanity. Therefore, it is important to preserve the
cultural and artistic values of Hát Xẩm in its own habitat. We need to collect and research Hát
Xẩm in all three regions in order to preserve and develop contemporary Hát Xẩm in the age of
globalization and in order to diversify and enrich Vietnamese music in the new era.

Keywords: Conservation, Hát Xẩm, Hát rong, Form, Theme, Convention, Comparison,
Organization.