



**PRESERVING THE SINGING THEN HERITAGE OF THE TAY COMMUNITY
IN TAN LAP VILLAGE, TAN TRAO COMMUNE, SON DUONG DISTRICT,
TUYEN QUANG PROVINCE**

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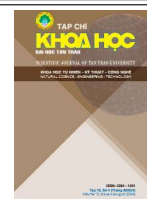
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Abstract:

Then singing - a unique intangible cultural heritage of the Tay, Nung, Thai people is an art form combining music, singing and spiritual rituals, playing an important role in the spiritual life of the community. Tay people. Along with the love of singing Then, Dan Tinh throughout the country. In Tan Lap village, Tan Trao commune, Son Duong district, Tuyen Quang province, the work of preservation and conservation has also been done well. This article hopes to share about the exchange and preservation of Then, Dan Tinh singing heritage in Tan Lap village, Tan Trao commune, Son Duong district, Tuyen Quang province, promoting positive local activities to the community. love singing Then, Dan Tinh at home and abroad..



BẢO TỒN DI SẢN HÁT THEN CỦA CỘNG ĐỒNG NGƯỜI TÀY Ở THÔN TÂN LẬP XÃ TÂN TRÀO, HUYỆN SƠN DƯƠNG, TỈNH TUYÊN QUANG

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Tân Trào, Tuyên Quang

Tóm tắt

Hát then - di sản văn hoá phi vật thể đặc sắc của người Tày, Nùng, Thái là loại hình nghệ thuật kết hợp giữa âm nhạc ca hát và nghi lễ tâm linh, có vai trò quan trọng trong đời sống tinh thần của cộng đồng người Tày. Cùng với sự yêu mến hát Then, đàn Tính trong cả nước. Tại thôn Tân Lập, xã Tân Trào, huyện Sơn Dương, tỉnh Tuyên Quang cũng đã và đang làm tốt công tác giữ gìn và bảo tồn. Bài viết này mong muốn được chia sẻ về việc trao truyền, bảo tồn di sản hát Then, xx tại thôn Tân Lập, xã Tân Trào, huyện Sơn Dương, tỉnh Tuyên Quang nhằm lan toả tích cực hoạt động của địa phương tới cộng đồng người yêu hát Then, đàn Tính trong và ngoài nước.

1. Introduction

Then singing is a unique intangible cultural heritage of the Tay, Nung and Thai ethnic groups, imbued with the cultural identity of the mountainous region of Northern Vietnam. This is a comprehensive art form, combining music, singing and spiritual rituals, playing an important role in the spiritual life of the Tay community.

In Tan Lap village, Tan Trao commune, Son Duong district, Tuyen Quang province, Then singing, dan Tinh is not only a traditional cultural feature but also a spiritual bridge between people and gods. Vietnamese culture in general and the music of the Tay people, represented by Then

singing, dan Tinh, are facing the integration of globalization. Protecting identity in the face of world integration is a very difficult task. This requires the consensus of the community. For the Tay people, Then singing, dan Tinh has been well preserved and protected by the people. A typical example in preserving, maintaining and spreading the heritage of Then singing, dan Tinh is the people in Tan Lap village, Tan Trao commune, Son Duong district, Tuyen Quang province. Thanks to the dedicated guidance of artisans in the province; sharing of experience and knowledge by the elderly; With the young generation's love of learning and desire to preserve cultural heritage,

up to now, this locality has been doing a good job of preserving it through the Then singing club, dan Tinh of this place.

2. Research history

Nguyen Thi Thanh Thao (2021), Tinh Tau in the cultural life of the Tay people in Tuyen Quang, PhD thesis in Cultural Studies, Academy of Social Sciences, Hanoi; The author has presented many research works on the art of Then singing and Tinh lute of the Tay people. However, the author has given a definition in her doctoral thesis with other previous research works because she assessed the important element as the Tinh Tau tree of the Tay people in Tuyen Quang. This can be considered the first research topic in a comprehensive, systematic, and in-depth way on the role and position of the Tinh Tau tree in both the religious life and the cultural life of the Tay people on a keyboard could. In terms of science, the topic contributes to the discussion of the research work on the change of group culture under the activities of the State's financial policies on culture and art through the periods; clarify the role of artisans and the community in the work of preserving, exploiting and developing national cultural heritage. In practice, the topic provides practical materials for the protection and promotion of intangible cultural values of the Tay people in general, especially in the context of Then practice of the Tay people, including the Tinh Tau tree, which is listed as a representative intangible cultural heritage of humanity; the research results of the thesis have useful reference value for researchers, teachers and managers of cultural heritage.

Ngo Duc Thinh (2002), "Then - a form of Shamanism of the Tay ethnic group in Vietnam", *Journal of Folk Culture*, (3), Hanoi. In this study, he identified four characteristics that were concluded and discussed as follows: 1; Then, Tao, Mo, Put, are typical forms of folk beliefs of the Tay ethnic group, they not only distribute

the spiritual life of the people but also leave deep marks in the cultural and artistic life of the ethnic group. Therefore, when talking about the culture of the Tay ethnic group, we cannot mention this signal threshold. 2; Then there is the fusion between indigenous beliefs and the influences of the Three Religions, especially the Taoism of the ethnic groups of South China and Viet (Kinh), from which a cruel folk Taoism of the Tay people was formed. 3; Then Ritual is a form of Shamanic education that shows spirit possession and spirit departure, in which the spirit of the gods is mainly entered into the body of Then Ladies and Then Men, to pray for peace, to ward off evil, to cure diseases, to tell fortunes, and to grant and enhance the beauty of Then Ladies and Then themselves. 4; Then, the biological product and integration of cultural and artistic values become a spiritual stage and cultural and artistic award for the masses.

Trieu An (editor) (2000), *Then Tay Songs*, VHDT Publishing House, Hanoi. The book consists of two parts: part 1 Then and Then songs, part 2 Then songs. This book wants to introduce to readers the origin of Then Tay, the origin of xx and the profession of Then singing. Then Songs and Festivals, the artistic value of Then Songs and Festivals.

Nguyen Thi Yen (editor) (2009), *Then for longevity of the Tay people*, VHDT Publishing House, Hanoi. The book mentions "Then is a long-standing form of religious practice of the people in the Northwest mountains of Vietnam. The work of identifying and evaluating the position of Then in the spiritual life of the Tay people is a necessary work contributing to the work of understanding the religious life of ethnic minorities in general and the Tay people in particular. Therefore, this article will focus on presenting the values as well as the limitations of Then. The spiritual world of the Tay people is a polytheistic world, thereby reflecting the light of exchange between religious

elements, indigenous beliefs and imported beliefs belonging to the Three Religions”.

3. Research methods

The research was conducted based on: Research

1. Ethnographic fieldwork

- Interviews with Then singers and people of Tan Lap village.

- Observations of Then singing performances in traditional festivals and community cultural activities.

2. Document analysis:

- Research on historical and cultural documents on Then singing of the Tay people.

- Comparison and contrast with

4. Results and discussion

4.1. The current status of preserving Then singing of the Tay people in Tan Lap village, Tan Trao commune, Son Duong district, Tuyen Quang province

Next is the art form with strong cultural and historical features of the Tay, Nung, Thai people in the northern mountainous provinces. It has been studied with great interest and kept in documents through many articles and scientific research nationwide. Leaving behind a representative intangible cultural heritage of humanity, dan Tinh has been recognized by UNESCO as a representative intangible cultural heritage of humanity.

Tan Lap village, Tan Trao commune, Son Duong district, Tuyen Quang province is located in the Tan Trao Tourist Area Complex. The privileged advantages of traditional cultural identity, history and pristine natural landscapes... are very favorable for exploiting tourism development, especially community tourism. Tan Lap village is mainly inhabited by Tay people who have lived for generations, under the shade

of Tan Trao banyan tree - a living historical relic, on the afternoon of August 16, 1945, the Vietnam Liberation Army held a ceremony to march to the South. Comrade Vo Nguyen Giap read the military order No. 1 and then marched to Hanoi to launch a general uprising for victory.

Currently, Tan Lap cultural village has the house of Mr. Nguyen Tien Su where Uncle Ho lived and worked during the days from Pac Bo, Cao Bang to Tan Trao and the house of Mr. Hoang Trung Dan where Comrade Vo Nguyen Giap lived and worked from May to August 1945. Recognized as a provincial historical relic in 2006. The two houses have been preserved, restored to their original values and recreated the resting and working places of Uncle Ho and General Vo Nguyen Giap, serving visitors.

Then singing and dan Tinh in Tan Lap have gone through many ups and downs. Currently, the number of Then singing artists is very small, mainly the elderly. Tan Lap village has a Then singing and dan Tinh club called Coi Nguon. The club has about 20 people participating in activities twice a week. The participants are between the ages of 8 and 70, Ms. Dam Thanh Hien is a Tay person who is in charge and teaches. There are many difficulties due to urbanization, many changes in life, people who love Then singing, dan Tinh are mainly the elderly, the number of young people is decreasing. But there are still young generations of neighboring villages and communes to learn and study, so the club activities are still strong and the next generation is strong, successfully performing the waves in Then successfully.

The art of teaching Then singing, dan Tinh uses official forms such as opening classes to convey in each locality, in families and through cultural exchanges. Young people are now interested in this type of art media, so the transmission has become more convenient and developed. In addition, factors such as investment from authorities at all levels, and those who participate in learning Then

singing, xx are more enthusiastic in practicing and have announced many performances. Although the influence of foreign cultures has crept into life, Then singing, dan Tinh still retains a strong attraction in modern life.

4.2. Cultural and spiritual values of Then singing

Then singing is not only an art form but also contains profound cultural, historical and spiritual values. Next, I will talk about its influence on aspects of human life from the past to the present. I would like to present the influence of Then in the following aspects:

In terms of spirituality:

Then is an indispensable practice in the spiritual rituals of the Tay, Nung and Thai people. Spirituality in ritual practice reflects the concepts of humans, the natural world and the universe. In the Then ritual, Mr. Then and Mrs. Then describe the journey from the earthly realm to the heavenly realm to offer offerings and pray in the ceremony such as praying for peace, praying for healing, praying for a good harvest, congratulating each other, praying for a new year, etc.

In the Mr. Then and Mrs. Then ritual, dan Tinh is used with lyrics and singing. When the singing and instruments are played, the journey begins. Depending on the purpose of worship, the Then master will display the offering tray and pray to different gods in front of the Then altar. The accompanying items are the exorcism sword, the yin and yang stick, the bell... to perform Then at the homeowner's house, the altar is displayed indoors or outdoors or at the Then master's Then altar. The Then master both performs and sings in his ethnic language, the sound of the instrument and singing is accompanied by the music and the fan sounds of the Then servants. This makes the ceremony more attractive and reaches the highest state of connection with the gods invited in the worship.

Oral transmission is a form of oral transmission that has existed since ancient times. This oral transmission method was practiced by the ancients. This is an effective and practical teaching method, helping learners remember quickly and remember for a long time. In the Then worship custom, the Then master plays the leading and main role. There are even Then masters who perform up to 200 Then rituals each year. In the Tay people's concept, the Then master is the one who connects with the spiritual world. Accordingly, the more people practice spirituality, the higher their authority. Power is created through the process of controlling the spirits and the power of the Then Master. From there, the Then Master has more prestige in the community. However, for the Then Master, the practitioner needs to be ethical, work with the purpose of helping people, not asking for anything to gain the trust of the community.

****Artistic value***

Since ancient times, human society has developed according to the law in different geographical areas. Each ethnic group in Vietnam has also developed that foundation. Each ethnic group has its own life and culture, the Tay, Nung, and Thai people have created for themselves a valuable cultural heritage, building an art with rich, diverse, and unique content, especially Then singing and Tinh lute.

The art of Then singing and dan Tinh is closely associated with the lives of the Tay, Nung, and Thai people, holding an important position in daily life and spirituality. After that, it is a synthetic art form with elements of literature, music, dance, fine arts, etc. that are widely preserved among the masses.

It must be said that it requires spirituality and belief. Then art has produced and integrated many valuable artistic values, creating a symbol for the entire folk culture of the Tay, Nung, and Thai people. The artistic elements are intertwined, supporting each other to develop together, creating

a harmonious performance environment for the whole.

Music in Then, a folk performing art performed indoors on a quiet night. Therefore, the sound of Then music is often gentle, warm and intimate. The stage is a mat with a musician and a person shaking the music, just enough for people to listen and watch in the family space. The music in Then is very tight in rhythm and tempo.

To compare, Then singing and Hau Dong singing of Kinh people are not much different, both are forms of Shaman, a popular form of belief in Eastern Siberia and the far North of Asia. With the Shaman form (Nguyen Thuy Loan, 2015), only the drum form and the singing voice are not clearly known. Hat Van can write lyrics. Meanwhile, the person performing Then plays and sings according to the poetry of the Tay, Nung, Thai people, creating a sacred atmosphere. Therefore, musical instruments such as the Tinh lute and the music shaking used by Then teachers are considered sacred objects.

The literature in it is expressed in the language of the Tay, Nung, and Thai people, but in the lyrics, there are often alternating Vietnamese and Chinese. Poetry in Then is often narrative, telling stories, and has anecdotes (Vi Hong (1993). Poetry in Then often uses 5-word or 7-word poems, with longer sentences showing that the poetry is not constrained. The language in Then directly expresses the strength of the psychological attitudes of the Tay, Nung, and Thai people with many profound meanings. In Then, the most wonderful artistic characteristics of the Tay, Nung, and Thai people are synthesized, and the language of the Kinh and Chinese people is also flexibly and skillfully used, creating a strong attraction. Through this, we can see that the cultural exchange between the Tay, Nung, and Thai people and the Kinh people and the Chinese language has existed for a long time (Nguyen Thi Hien, 2000).

Then dance, Then is a spiritual ritual, therefore, Then dance is also a spiritual dance. Then dance is a religious ritual, but the dance form is close to the people and easy to perform. It is joyful and exciting like Sluong dance, respectful like Chau dance, admiring good wisdom like Hoa Tan dance. In addition, there is also sea crossing dance (Kham Hai) (Nguyen Thi Thanh Thao, 2021), demon-fighting dance, road-going dance, snowy forest crossing dance, singing blood to music, fan-waving dance.

Fine arts in Then, the forms of colored paper collage such as flower shapes, animal shapes, human shapes, bird shapes,... decorative drawings on the pads and the players, can create talent with unique creative flower letters made by themselves. On the Dan Tinh, the head of the instrument is carved with motifs such as lotus flowers, berets interwoven with beautiful soft patterns, and also hangs colorful tassels, blue, red, green, yellow, purple,... creating an attractive feature for the Dan Tinh with strong ethnic identity of Tay, Nung, Thai. Decorative arts in addition to the strings also include bells with many different colors, bronze bells, seals, and yin and yang cards. The seal is decorated with Chinese characters, considered the seal of the Jade Emperor given to Ba Then, Ong Then, used to do good deeds or as a companion through the gate of heaven. During the ceremony, if the Then Master forgets to bring the seal, it will be known in advance that the homeowner will encounter an accident, bad luck that cannot be resolved. The bell is made of bronze and is also decorated with beautiful patterns, used to know when to go to the gate of heaven. Two wooden divination sticks are separated in half by a small piece of wood, symbolizing yin and yang. When divining, the Then Lady tosses them up and if both sticks are face down or face up, it means the gods have agreed.

Thus, Then is passed down in the literature of the Tay, Nung and Thai people and has developed

highly. Then is both a story and a poem, a narrative, a lyric. Then singing is a form associated with rituals but is not bland but profound, blending forms of language exchange with the Kinh and Han people. A lovely thing that the Tay, Nung and Thai people have always loved. Then, because they love a unique synthetic art form. Then singing art has penetrated deep into people's hearts, transforming people. What inspires and transforms is the singing voice, the sound of the instrument, the sound of the music, along with the dances, the elements of folk art that make Then services attract and connect people together.

***Community connection:**

Recently, on the evening of December 14, 2024, in Xuan Van commune, Yen Son district, Tuyen Quang province, the 8th provincial-wide Then and dan Tinh singing exchange took place. The previous times were combined with expansion to other localities in the districts of Tuyen Quang province. Each time brought bright, joyful and warm echoes. The 8th time was held in Xuan Van commune, with the attention of the commune government in combination with the Yen Son district Cultural Center, the exchange was a great success. In addition to the Then and dan Tinh singing clubs in the province, this time, a number of other clubs from the two provinces of Ha Giang and Yen Bai were invited. Each place brought its own unique melodies. Therefore, the attraction was stimulated with applause praising the outstanding performances on stage. There were people who loved Then singing, dan Tinh from other provinces who also came just to attend, they were not actors performing that day, because of a love for Then. As for me, a Kinh person who knows how to sing Then... *"This is a playground for those who love to sing Then, xx regardless of ethnicity, no need to be Tay, Nung, Thai, just need to have a passion for practicing singing and playing this art form proficiently. Because Then is*

the voice of the heart, is a story, is an emotion, in the long life of a person".

Nguyen Thi Thanh Thao shared: *"The melody of Then singing, dan Tinh of the Tay, Nung, Thai people is a cultural heritage, with gentle, melodious melodies, easy to touch people's hearts. That is why in the same community, Then singing, dan Tinh is loved and participated by many other ethnic groups. This is completely spontaneous from each person. Singing for love; This can also be seen through the participation in the 8th Open Then Singing – dan Tinh Exchange Program held in 2024 in Xuan Van commune, Yen Son district, Tuyen Quang province, with the participation of a large number of Tay ethnic people, especially a large number of Kinh, Dao, Mong people attending".*

It can be seen that: Then singing and dan Tinh will live forever with the Tay, Nung, Thai ethnic people in particular and the Vietnamese people in general, and will develop widely in the country and internationally. Because the number of people who love Then singing and dan Tinh is endless, as long as Then singing and dan Tinh are shared on any media, with ancient Then lyrics in Tay language, new lyrics translated into Kinh language along with modifications, keeping the original melody, developing to a new height, this spread will last forever.

4.3. Challenges in preserving Then

In the historical process of Then practice, a period of interruption caused Then masters to be banned from practicing, and the art of Then singing was lost in some localities. Now that Then singing has been restored to its true value. Ancient Then is in danger of being lost because some arts have passed away, taking with them the songs and ancient waves. Besides, there are many young generations who continue to be Then masters, who have to work very hard and must be captured by Then ghosts, as the Tay, Nung, and Thai ethnic groups believe. There are only a handful of artists

who teach Then and Tinh. For example, in Chiem Hoa district, Tuyen Quang, there are two brothers, Artist Ha Phan and People's Artist Ha Thuan. Mr. Ha Phan passed away a long time ago. Artist Ha Thuan traveled everywhere to teach the art of Then singing and Tinh, especially the ancient Then songs he kept and there are new Then songs that he composed and set the lyrics to the ancient Then rhythm. Now, Artist Ha Thuan is old. Teaching is limited, no longer following invitations from agencies or organizations, but only spending time resting with children and grandchildren, and if anyone is researching and studying, he teaches directly at home.

Meritorious artist Tham Ngoc Kien, living in Tuyen Quang city, a person with great contributions to the work of teaching Then singing and Tinh lute voluntarily to the Tay community in and outside Tuyen Quang province, said: *"Tuyen Quang province has many Then singing and Tinh lute clubs, the most are in Chiem Hoa, Na Hang, Lam Binh, Yen Son districts, with more abundant activities in Chiem Hoa and Na Hang. After many years of teaching, the quality of students is good, everyone is enthusiastic about singing and is of different ages (old, young), those who are passionate about singing are usually the elderly, but limited in energy and age will not benefit"*.

Currently in 2024, *he teaches two clubs, villages 8 and 23 Kim Phu, Yen Son, the class has many ages over 50, 60 years old. The children who initially registered were 30, but through the process of training and energy, they gradually stopped studying, the remaining children are very passionate about singing Then, enthusiastically learning, and buying themselves new instruments. The class has many instruments, some families buy 4-6 instruments because many people follow the training class. He continued, when I asked about the future of singing, the Tinh lute; The future of singing and the Tinh lute is developing more and more every day, many people who do not know*

how to sing really like to listen to it on TV. Doing so, singing and singing Coi are not afraid of being lost, as long as there is a method of teaching and passing on the passion, young learners will not be afraid of singing Then, dan Tinh will not be forgotten".

Looking at the artists who teach Then singing, there are indeed very few. But with their enthusiasm, they do not fear difficulties and hardships. The artists always keep the flame of enthusiasm for Then. Therefore, the number of people studying Then singing and Tinh lute has increased continuously. Many clubs have been established, teaching ancient and new Then to those who love it. I asked Lien, Lam Binh district, and she shared; *"Having studied with Mr. Kien, my lute and voice have been honed, I can sing new and ancient Then smoothly, and know many melodies. I will try to learn more to preserve the art of my people."*

Many studies and articles worry that the art of Then singing and dan Tinh will be lost and forgotten due to industrialization and global modernization. But that is only a part that does not affect Then singing. Due to the need to migrate from one place to another, many people have brought the art of Then singing and dan Tinh to all over Vietnam and abroad. They have brought their music to industrial zones. Whenever they have free time, they take the lute as their confidant, the smooth melody of their homeland has reduced the fatigue of tiring working days.

In Hanoi, the Hanoi Then and dan Tinh singing clubs were also established. This is a positive sign for the spread of the art form. Art centers, cafes and tea rooms use Then and dan Tinh singing in cultural exchanges. Many people have studied and played the instruments proficiently, spreading the culture of the mountain people to all regions. Furthermore, many people, Tay, Nung, have migrated to the Southern provinces and the Central Highlands, such as Dak Lak province, and

many Then and dan Tinh singing clubs have been established and have preserved this art form in the province. With the above explanations, the art of Then and dan Tinh singing will become an art form that will live forever.

4.4. Solutions to preserve and promote the value of Then singing of the Tay community in Tan Lap village, Tan Trao commune, Son Duong district, Tuyen Quang province.

Education and teaching

Tuyen Quang is the first locality in the Northeast region to be aware of preserving Then cultural heritage early, and is also one of the leading localities actively seeking solutions to preserve the art form of Then singing and Tinh lute, including Then rituals and Then literature. In addition, Tuyen Quang is also the leading locality in submitting to the Government a dossier proposing to recognize Then Tay as a national intangible cultural heritage. Accordingly, the recognition of Then Tay, including Then singing and Tinh lute of Tuyen Quang as a national intangible cultural heritage in 2013 is an important contribution to the journey of bringing the Then heritage of the Tay, Nung, and Thai people of Vietnam to be recognized as a representative intangible cultural heritage of humanity (Nguyen Thi Yen, 2008).

Tan Lap village, Tan Trao commune, Son Duong district, Tuyen Quang province is a mountainous village located in the resistance capital area, where Uncle Ho once chose as a base. With long-standing historical and cultural relics. The Tay people in Tan Lap village always strive to promote values and preserve culture in many different forms. Therefore, cultural, historical and artistic values have brought a new vitality, loved by tourists from near and far to Tan Lap. The art of Then singing and Tinh lute has been spreading and being welcomed by people in Tan Lap as well as neighboring communes. I learned about this art through Ms. Dam Hien, head of the Then singing and Tinh lute club “Coi Nguon” guided by Ms.

Dam Hien. Artist Dam Hien is a young person born and raised in Tan Trao commune, has a passion for Tay music melodies and has devoted a lot of effort to learning Then singing and Tinh lute from People’s Artist Ha Thuan, Meritorious Artist Tham Ngoc Kien, Meritorious Artist Chu Van Thach and older artists. From her achievements, she has devoted all her heart to her teaching career. She is considered the person who brings the Then soul to many different generations in the locality. She said: “My class has many ages practicing, the youngest is 8 years old, the oldest is 60 to 70 years old. During the club activities, I invited artist Tham Ngoc Kien to teach, so that the children can approach prestigious artists and learn how to teach from him”. Currently, the Then singing and Tinh lute club in Tan Lap village has about 20 people, but to be proficient in playing and singing well, there are only about 10 people. She clarified that the children who know how to sing are usually teenagers, while the elderly only like to learn and participate, partly because of limited talent, so teaching is not convenient. At the exchange in Xuan Van commune, Yen Son district, Tuyen Quang province, Meritorious Artist Tham Ngoc Kien added: “*With what he has shared with the community about Then singing and Tinh lute, now his job is to witness the achievements that he and the artisans have built, which are Then singing and Tinh lute of the Tay people everywhere*”.

Policy to support conservation

Through the above, to preserve and promote the unique cultural identity of Then singing, dan Tinh with many years of efforts and high consensus between the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, the People’s Committee of Tuyen Quang province and the provinces with Then heritage in the process of researching and completing the dossier, on December 13, 2019, “Then practice of the Tay, Nung, Thai people in Vietnam” was officially listed by UNESCO as a representative intangible cultural heritage of

humanity - the 13th intangible cultural heritage of Vietnam to be honored by UNESCO. The international community's recognition of the efforts and determination of the Party Committee, government and people of Tuyen Quang province.

On October 31, 2022, the People's Committee of Tuyen Quang province issued Plan No. 209/KH-UBND on the implementation of the National Action Program to protect and promote the value of intangible cultural heritage "Then practice of the Tay, Nung, Thai people in Vietnam" in Tuyen Quang province, period 2022 - 2027, in order to fulfill the country's commitment to UNESCO in the nomination dossier for inclusion in the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity and effectively implement the National Action Program to protect and promote the value of intangible cultural heritage "Then practice of the Tay, Nung, Thai people in Vietnam", period 2022 - 2027 issued by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism with Document No. 3544/BVHTTDL-DSVH dated September 19, 2022. To promote and protect the intangible cultural artistic values of Then belief practices, it is necessary to propose specific solutions to continue researching, identifying the overall value, inventorying, collecting, and digitizing this heritage. "Then practice of the Tay, Nung, Thai people" in Tuyen Quang; the cultural sector must do a good job of propaganda and education to raise awareness and perception of the whole society in preserving and promoting the value of heritage in general and Then rituals of the Tay, Nung, Thai people in particular. Tuyen Quang province always emphasizes and promotes traditional culture, paying attention to directing the establishment of clubs to preserve the cultural heritage of ethnic groups, including the Tay and Nung ethnic groups; currently there are over 70 Then singing clubs – dan Tinh; is a place for experienced, elderly artisans to teach their children and grandchildren, and the younger generation Then rituals and especially the unique

and impressive Then singing style of the Tay people in Tuyen Quang.

A special point is that the activities of the Then singing club, xx are completely free, the invitation of artisans to teach is mainly contributed to the living and travel expenses of the artisans. The local activities do not have any funding source. However, besides loving and preserving, the local Then singing club, dan Tinh also creates a new livelihood model for the people here, which is to serve cultural tourism.

Developing historical and cultural tourism

With the strong attraction of Then singing, dan Tinh to tourists since the beginning of 2022. After the period when tourism industries nationwide had to close due to the Covid epidemic, the Provincial Tourism Management Board decided to include Then singing, xx in tourism services at Na Nua Lake. Then singing, xx has become a tourism product, exploited simultaneously with historical tourism in Tan Trao, Son Duong.

A strong change of the Tuyen Quang Provincial Tourism Management Board. This place has met the needs of tourists by combining historical and cultural tourism, rafting experience tourism on Khuon Pen Lake for 30 minutes, listening to Then singing by Tay ethnic artists and cultural exchange with local people.

Then singing club, dan Tinh Coi Nguon is the main force here. Ms. Dam Hien, the club manager, said: *"Every day, there are customers who order Then and dan Tinh singing services. Thanks to that, the artisans of Tan Lap craft village can both preserve their identity and have an additional source of income to love and cherish their ethnic singing. The number of club members is constantly increasing. Club director Dam Hien said that this year, she will open another class to teach Then and dan Tinh singing to more than a dozen children from 8 to 12 years old, to have a successor class".* Ms. Dam Hien also added: *"I opened an additional*

service store selling souvenir products such as costumes, xx musical instruments... from which I have a high income. I am also invited by schools such as Military Officers to teach young officers and am paid up to tens of millions. A wonderful job from the art of Then and dan Tinh singing”.

According to Ms. Le Thi Thu Hoa, Head of the Professional Department, Provincial Tourism Management Board, the Then and dan Tinh singing artists are local people, all know how to paddle rafts, and are thoroughly trained in the profession to serve tourists safely and thoughtfully. Tourists can experience this service according to their needs, but it takes about 30 minutes to listen to 4-5 songs. Rafts are a means of transport used by local people to cross rivers and streams since ancient times. Later, this cultural feature was preserved, creating a unique cultural experience for tourists when coming to Tan Trao. Ms. Hoa added that Then and dan Tinh singing was officially recognized by UNESCO as an intangible heritage of humanity and the province is looking to promote cultural exchange activities in tourism development. In particular, currently, nearly 100% of tourist groups when visiting the Tan Trao special national relic site register for this experience. Since the introduction of Then singing and xx to serve tourists, this new experience has enhanced the experience for tourists, keeping them longer, and tourists spending more.

New experiential tourism such as swimming, listening to Then singing and dan Tinh on Na Nua lake combined with historical tourism at the Tan Trao special historical relic site is a combination, closely connecting historical tourism and local cultural experiences, attracting tourists to Tuyen Quang tourism.

5. Conclusion

The art of Then singing, dan Tinh has been officially recognized by UNESCO as a representative intangible cultural heritage of

humanity. Preserving the heritage of Then singing xx is a voluntary activity of the Tay community in Tan Lap village, Tan Trao commune, Son Duong district, Tuyen Quang province. This is a very meaningful and practical activity. In addition, with the support of the local government, it is increasingly popular in the community.

Then singing, dan Tinh not only carries the value of a comprehensive art combining music, fine arts, dance, etc., but also has the meaning of community solidarity and has become a typical symbol of the culture of the Tay, Nung, and Thai people in Vietnam.

Today, when tourism is developing everywhere, Tan Lap village is no exception, a famous scenic spot and a special historical relic of Na Nua hut. Where Uncle Ho once led the way to fight the Japanese and the French to bring peace to the nation. Then singing, xx has therefore been introduced to serve tourists when visiting historical sites, tourists can experience swimming on Na Nua Lake, cultural exchange with local people, listen to Then singing. People both preserve their cultural identity, sing in their own language, and earn extra income.

Then singing is a typical art form of the Tay people. Someone once said; tourists stopping in Tuyen Quang without listening to Then singing , dan Tinh are considered to have never been to Tuyen Quang. Coming to the magical scenery, the sky and clouds blending with the sweet and melodious Then melody with the smooth and deep dan Tinh sounds like the wind, the clouds playing, the feelings, the stories, make the listener feel like he is lost in a fairyland, suddenly forgetting the way home.

Then singing club, dan Tinh is a living model that not only preserves heritage but also brings a new livelihood model to local people. Both preserving culture and developing tourism. This is one of the sustainable economic development policies of Tuyen Quang province.

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