

Transposition in Vietnam: A Development Programme for Civil Society? - Geir Johnson

Website: www.transposition.no

Since 2007 I have been involved in establishing and running Transposition - a programme to support the development of the professional music scene in Vietnam. In this presentation, I will outline what are the main challenges of the development and professionalization of the classical music scene in a country under difficult economic circumstances.

This presentation will discuss some main aspects of the position of culture in contemporary Vietnamese society, such as: Why working with classical Western music in an Asian country? What are the main obstacles in the current Vietnamese society to the integration of a professional music scene as part of the modernization of the society as such? What does "professionalization" really mean?

Through examples and discussions, I will try and give a survey of how the Vietnamese music scene can benefit from a broader democratic structure, increased communication and co-operation between the various institutions, in order to strengthen their overall general interests. This implies a more systematic long-term approach to planning and management as a way of developing quality through the understanding of the importance of various supporting systems, thus also supporting indirectly the development of civil society.