

## **Chulalongkorn University Ensemble**

The history began in 2000 at the time when the Department of Thai Music at Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts Chulalongkorn University sought for an opportunity to host talented music students and establish a circle of young professional musicians. The group became a new generation of Thai musicians who have joined together the musical journey to exchange ideas of their music and culture with international audience. It is their goal to reach out and bridge the gap between traditional music and modern society. Throughout the past years, Chulalongkorn University Ensemble has been invited to perform in many world music festivals and to give Thai music workshops internationally, for example, in New Zealand, Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Turkey, USA, Japan, and Slovenia.

At this **Festival**, in collaboration with Absolutely Thai in Singapore ran by international well known Thai artist, Ms Paphutsorn Wongratanapitak (Koong), an alumni of Department of Thai Music Chulalongkorn University, the group will perform a glimpse of sacred music from Northeastern Thailand.

### **1. Bai-Sri**

A special ceremony will be held to demonstrate how villagers welcome and show hospitality to visitors. Vocalization introduces the first part of the welcoming ceremony and later invites local spirits for blessings. Audiences are encouraged to take part in this very special ceremony. The ceremony ends with sacred dance and musical celebrations after the ceremony is successfully performed.

### **2. Paya**

Paya is a form of vocalization without musical accompaniment from northeastern Thailand is now rarely performed. Due to its special techniques of vocalization and language techniques, paya deserves a full attention from modern audience. Paya has many purposes: to share knowledge, to pass on cultural heritage, to reflect, to convey information, to tell story, and to muse. Local philosophy was addresses to audience to be pondered such as riddles, buddhist philosophy, and blessings. Texts are rhyming couplets. In this performance, a female vocalist will tell a story of local wisdom.

### **3. Wong Ponglang**

A musical ensemble from the northeastern part of Thailand is called Wong Ponglang. The ensemble includes various types of instruments: Khean (Bamboo panpipe), Ponglang (horizontal xylophone), Whote (turn-around panpipe), Pin (lute), Klong hang (drums), This type of ensemble is one of the most popular kinds in Thailand due to its entertaining style and vibrant sound. It is

usually performed in many occasions to celebrate auspicious moments, for example, the Buddhist lent festival in northeastern Thailand.

**List of Performers:**

1. Mr. Chakrit Chalermasuk
2. Mrs. Nottanunti Charoen
3. Mr. Sarayut Chotirat
4. Mrs. Pornusa Kaewsawang
5. Mr. Pattara Komkam
6. Mr. Akkasit Panitcharern
7. Ms. Pornprapit Phoasavadi
8. Ms. Kumkom Pornprasit
9. Mr. Chantatnan Pragaisantisuk
10. Ms. Patarawdee Puchadapirom
11. Mr. Pakorn Rodchangphuen
12. Ms. Suthasinee Sookkasame
13. Ms. Bussakorn Sumrongthong
14. Ms. Matcheewa Tongsopa