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## 100 YEARS OF SOUTH VIETNAMESE CẢI LƯƠNG THEATRE AND THE PLACE OF THE ĐÀN GHITA PHÍM LỖM

### Abstract

The ghita phím lỗm that appeared to have been introduced through Western models but was in fact mainly inspired by Pinoy and Indonesian musicians who travelled to Southern Vietnam, is also called lục huyền cầm (6-string guitar), ghita móc phím (guitar with elevated frets), ghita cổ nhạc (guitar for old music), ghita vọng cổ (guitar for the accompaniment of the piece vọng cổ), ghita cải lương (guitar for the reformed theater), or ghita Việt Nam (Vietnamese guitar). There seems to be no other musical instrument in Vietnam with that number of different names. This specific instrument deserves to be introduced to a wider academic audience since it is closely connected to the South Vietnamese theatre tradition, especially to the “song of nostalgia” (ca vọng cổ) in the cải lương theatre (the “reformed theatre”) with its 100-year long history, in which the ghita phím lỗm became a leading musical instrument.

### Keywords

South Vietnam, đàn ghita phím lỗm, Cải Lương theatre, UNESCO, listening cultures

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