

BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Composer, Prasidh Silapabanleng, son of Luang Pradit Phairoh, the great master of Thai music who, during his days, had brought Thai music to its unprecedented popularity in the country. Mr. Silapabanleng, as a child learned the arts of Thai music from his father and at the age of 21, was admitted to the prestigious Tokyo Academy of music, Japan where he studied Western music with major in composition under the close supervision of Professor Dr. Klaus Pringsheim, a prominent composer and a remarkable pupil of Gustav Mahler. Mr. Silapabanleng was one among few Thai music scholars with a degree in western music composition, was engaged as composer and conductor in the services of the Royal Fine Arts Department. After resigning from the Department, he helped his father found the Phakavali Institute of Dance and Music, whose artists, under his direction, have appeared widely in concerts, including stage performances in Europe, America, Canada, and central and South America, Mexico.....

Mr. Silapabanleng, has represented Thailand at such important music conferences as the first Regional Music Conference of Southeast Asia held in the Philippines in 1955 where his symphonic composition titled "Siamese Suite No.4" was played to a packed audience. In 1958, Mr. Silapabanleng attended the UNESCO Music Conference in Paris as the delegate from Thailand. He also participated in the Manila Music Symposium in 1966.

This composition "Damnern Sai" for String Quartet is based on a variation on an old melody from the North of the country which the composer's father, Luang Pradit Phairoh, first arranged for the ensemble of Thai musical orchestra. The variation was so popular among the Thai music circle that it was played in almost every musical festivity. Recently, the Western concert programs have tried to add works of the native land music pieces to their repertoires and the composer has taken this unique opportunity of introducing some of his father's Thai melodies in the form of Western styled compositions.