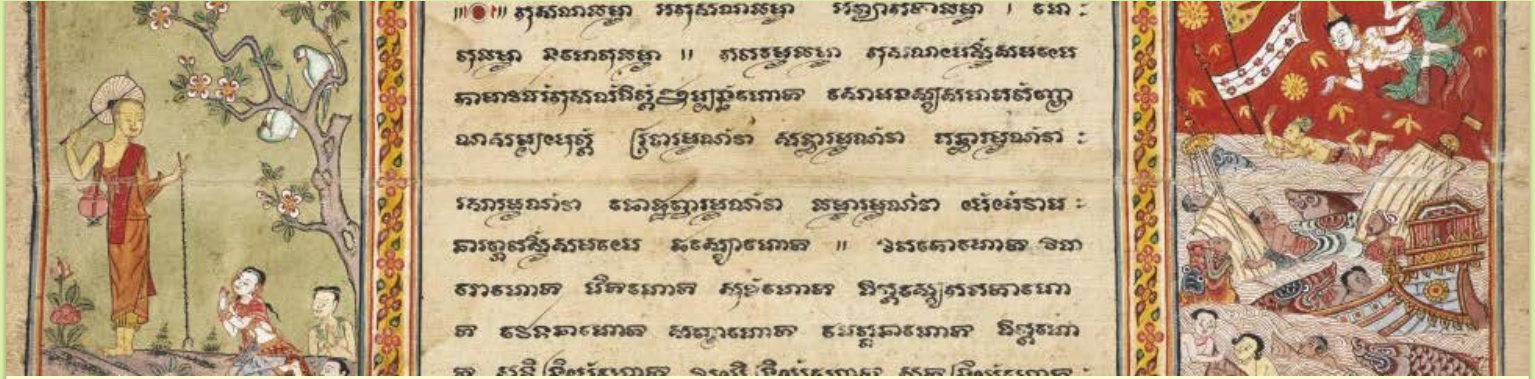


Southeast Asia Library Group (SEALG)

News and information from libraries & archives about Southeast Asian collections in Europe

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Khmer women in divine context

Tribal Music Asia – An online source for traditional music, ceremonies, and culture of the ethnic groups of Southeast Asia

September 26, 2017

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Created by American researcher, documentarian, and musician Victoria Vorreiter for over a decade, [Tribal Music Asia](#) is the home of the Resonance Project, a dynamic multi-media archive that aspires to record and preserve the traditional musical heritage of the indigenous peoples living in the mountains of Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, and China, who have depended for millennia on “the mother tongue method” to transmit their ancestral knowledge, history, and beliefs. Numbering over 130 groups and subgroups, most of these communities continue to live close to the earth, to practice animism, and to maintain a vital oral tradition. Culturally and sonically, this is one of the most extraordinary places on the planet.



*Xob Lum Vaj and Friends
Performing the Qeej at the New Year Festival
at Ban Tan, Phongsali Province, Laos
December 2005.
Copyright: Victoria Vorreiter*

By interweaving a variety of visual, aural, and tactile components, the Resonance Project spotlights these highlanders’ astonishingly rich soundscape—springing from a vast repository of songs, chants, invocations, and instrumental music—to demonstrate music’s

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The Annual SEALG Meeting 2017

... will take place in connection with the EUROSEAS Conference in Oxford from 16 to 18 August 2017. SEALG will organise a panel with the theme ‘Collecting, Preserving, Showcasing: Cultural Pasts of Southeast Asia’.

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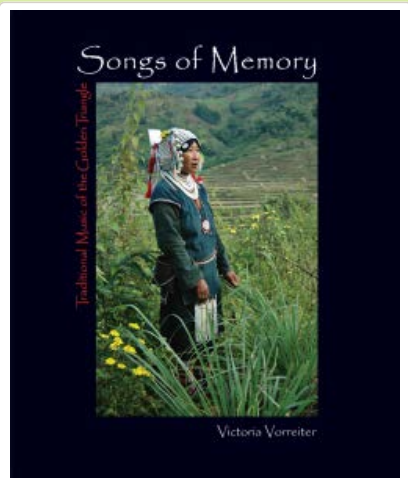
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vital role in charting human emotions, celebrating cycles of seasons, marking the arc of life, and animating ritual enactments. It is hoped that in giving voice to cultures that may seem remote, this project contributes to an awareness of our world that transcends borders.

The Resonance Project first produced the Songs of Memory: Traditional Music of the Golden Triangle multi-layered project (April 2009), consisting of the [Songs of Memory Book](#), [Compact Disc](#), and [Multi-media Exhibition](#) of photographs, films, musical instruments, artifacts, and textiles for a family (father, mother, son, and daughter) of the six major ethnic groups in the region: Akha, Lahu, Lisu, Mien, Hmong, and Karen.



“Songs of Memory”, front cover of the book.
Copyright: Victoria Vorreiter

The Songs of Memory collections have been hosted in such prestigious venues as the East-West Center, Hawaii; the Jim Thompson Center, Bangkok; the University of Mandalay, Myanmar; the Golden Triangle Gallery, Chicago; the Chiang Mai Arts and Cultural Center; and numerous international conferences at Chiang Mai University, Thailand.

In recent years, the Resonance Project has specifically delved into Hmong traditions, producing the Hmong Songs of Memory: Traditional Secular and Sacred Hmong Music archive, based on the [Hmong Songs of Memory Book and Film](#) (December 2016), which offers readers, viewers, and listeners an in-depth experience of Hmong music and its primal role in propelling their rites.



Cover of the “Hmong Songs of Memory” film.
Copyright: Victoria Vorreiter.

To bring the book and film alive, the [Hmong Songs of Memory, Hmong Threads of Life Exhibition](#) was launched, providing visitors with a variety of integrative components—photographs, film, a comprehensive collection of Hmong musical instruments, artifacts, detailed text panels, and full textiles of the four major Hmong subgroups in Laos and Thailand.

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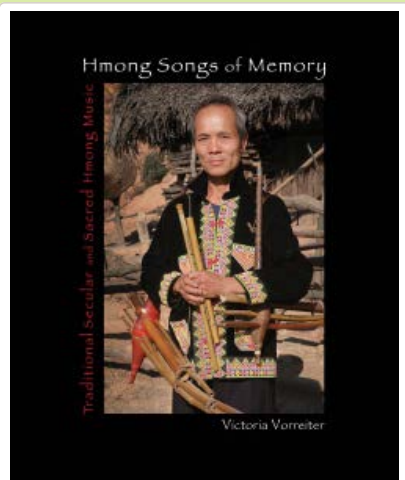
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The Tribal Music Asia website provides access to [recordings](#) of Akha, Lahu, Lisu, Mien, Hmong, and Karen music, various [publications](#) and [reviews](#), [photo galleries](#), and layouts of recent and previous [exhibitions](#). It is possible to directly [order books, CDs, note cards, and documentary films](#).



*Lahu Shi Man and Grandson
Celebrating the Harvest Festival at
Wan Kong Pyak Tae, Keng Tung,
Myanmar, 2005.
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