



## HMONG CULTURAL CENTER

Multicultural Resources, Adult Education, Cultural Education

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### HMONG CULTURAL CENTER LAUNCHES QEEJ AND HMONG WEDDING AND FUNERAL SONGS VIDEOS WEBPAGES



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Hmong Cultural Center has launched Qeej and Hmong Wedding and Funeral Songs Videos webpages. This important project was made possible by the National Endowment for the Arts and the voters of Minnesota through a grant from Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund. The project involved the filming and development of performance videos and English narrative descriptions related to the cultural significance of the canon of 16 Qeej instrument songs that are part of the Hmong funeral ceremony and which are taught in classes for the community at Hmong Cultural Center. Also filmed as part of the project were 12 orally recited Hmong Wedding and Funeral Ceremony songs taught in weekend classes at the center with English narrative descriptions also completed for each filmed song. The videos are featured on the center's Learn about Hmong cultural arts webpage and on HCC's [YouTube Channel](#). Txongpao Lee, Executive Director of Hmong Cultural Center stated: "The Minnesota State Arts Board and the National Endowment for the Arts through their important funding support of this unique cultural documentation and preservation project have enabled Hmong Cultural Center to teach young Hmong Americans and interested non-Hmong about the rich Hmong folk arts tradition and the intrinsic historic importance of the Qeej instrument songs and orally recited Wedding and Funeral Songs to Hmong life, identity, religion and ceremonial culture. Hmong Cultural Center's focus on preserving and passing along these core folk art forms associated with Hmong ceremonial culture is unique among Hmong or arts organizations in both Minnesota and the United States."

Performers filmed as part of the project included Chai Lee and Aranvihn Tou Thoj, Qeej instructors at Hmong Cultural Center along with students enrolled in the Qeej instructional program at Hmong Cultural Center as well as Shoua Sue Lee, Wedding and Funeral Songs

Instruction program coordinator and Vam Xeeb Xyooj, Tswj Fwm Lis, Txooj Ntxawg Yaj and Tsav Yeej Thoj, recent graduates of the Wedding and Funeral Songs Instruction program at the center. Mitch Lee of the Hmong Broadcasting Company (HBC-TV) served as Videographer for the project. Click here to visit the Qeej Videos Project webpage:

<http://www.learnabouthmong.net/qeej-videos-project.html> and here to visit the Wedding and Funeral Songs project page: <http://www.learnabouthmong.net/weddingfuneral-songs-project.html>. Hmong Cultural Center's YouTube channel may be visited at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/weblarm?feature=CBwQwRs%3D>

**About Hmong Cultural Center:** Founded in 1992 and located in the “Little Mekong” district on University Avenue in Saint Paul, Hmong Cultural Center's mission is to promote the personal development of children, youth, and adults through Hmong cultural education while providing resources that enhance cross-cultural awareness and understanding between Hmong and non-Hmong persons. The center's website is at <http://www.hmongcc.org/>. The community is very welcome to visit HCC, enroll in our programs and use our Hmong Resource Center Library at <http://www.hmonglibrary.org/> To learn more about programs at Hmong Cultural Center call 651-917-9937 or stop by the center at 375 University Avenue, Suite 204 in Saint Paul.