

# **Dr. Ramasoon Sitalayan**

*Chulalongkorn University (Thailand)*

## **Biography**

A native of Thailand, Ramasoon Sitalayan appears regularly in solo recital, chamber music concert, and concerto performance with leading orchestra in Thailand, such as the National Symphony Orchestra of Thailand, Thailand Philharmonic Orchestra, Chulalongkorn University Symphony Orchestra, and Salaya Modern Ensemble.

Ramasoon performed at summer music festivals in Russia (Moscow Conservatory) and in France (Moulin d'And ). He also gave a concert tour of a two-piano recital with Dr. Cheong Yew Choong and was invited to give a masterclass at the UCSI University. An active performer of new music, Ramasoon gave several world-premiere performances of concerto and solo work by leading Thai composers.

Ramasoon received his undergraduate degree from Chulalongkorn University and studied piano with Nat Yontarak and Zhou Wei. He continued his graduate studies in the United States and received graduate from Rochester Institute of Technology, the Eastman School of Music, and West Virginia University. His mentors include Barry Snyder, Natalya Antonova, Dr. Douglas Humpherys, Ruth Tomfohrde, and Dr. Peter Amstutz.

Dr. Ramasoon Sitalayan taught at Mahidol University from 1999 to 2009. He is currently an assistant professor at Chulalongkorn University, and an adjunct professor at the Princess Galyani Vadhana Institute of Music.

## **Topic Presented**

Ballades from Thai Literature for Piano Solo

## **Abstract**

The purpose of this lecture-recital is to study and perform piano compositions that reflect the cultural root of Thailand. Ballade, a character piece with narrative story, is chosen as a main genre for this project.

Originally, ballade is a narrative poem or song in German. It was a popular genre during the 18th and 19th century. The story of German Ballade usually came from the Medieval legends. This type of ballade became the predecessor of Ballades by Chopin, Liszt, and Brahms.

With the kind support from the National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT), this lecture-recital will feature compositions that show a strong relationship with Thai culture and literature. The four composers who participated in this project are Narongrit Dhamabutra, Denny Euprasert, Wiboon Trakulhun and Saksri Vongtaradon.

Narongrit Dhamabutra's Three Perspectives of I-Nao reflects his affinity for Javanese culture and Gamelan music. Denny Euprasert's Phra Abhai Mani utilizes a strong Jazz idiom with some influences from Samuel Barber and Paul Hindemith. In Wiboon Trakulhun's Ramayana, the sound of nature, such as thunder and storm, is presented throughout the entire composition, with intermittent lyrical and mysterious melody. Saksri Vongtaradon's Matanaphata is written in one long continuous movement and expresses a very intense human state of mind.

The lecture-recital will be concluded with a performance of Phra Abhai Mani and Three Perspectives of I-Nao