## **Hmong Songs of Memory**

## Traditional Secular and Sacred Hmong Music Book, Film, and Multi-media Exhibition Victoria Vorreiter

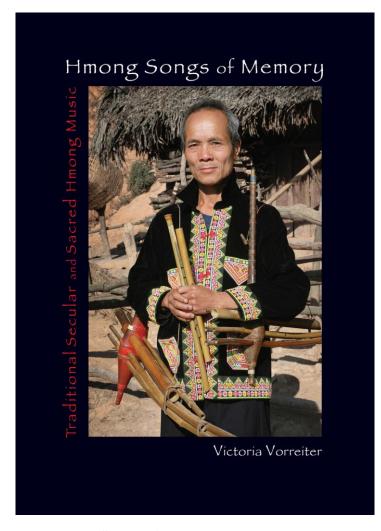
**Hmong Songs of Memory** is much more than just a study of music. It is a tour de force.

Asian Art Newspaper

As one of the most important initiatives to counteract the spread of cultural amnesia, Victoria Vorreiter's **Hmong Songs of Memory** multi-media project deserves the highest recognition and support locally and globally. For the research community, her work points the way forward to a holistic methodological practice built on interdisciplinary partnership. This work is no doubt one of the most significant archives in recent musicological writings.

Dr. Kjell Skyllstad

Professor Emeritus, Oslo University





The **Hmong Songs of Memory Book,** a collection of essays on Hmong culture, magnificently illustrated with over 350 color photographs, presents vivid accounts of Hmong musicians, shamans, healers, ritual specialists, headmen, craftsmen, and villagers as they reveal the primal power of music in celebrating the wheel of life. Hmong sacred music is shown through the prism of a full shamanic healing ceremony and explored through such subjects as "Hmong Origins," "Shamanism," "Spirits," "Souls," "Hmong Cosmology," and "The Sacred in the Human World." (2016, 281 pages)

The **Hmong Songs of Memory Film**, which accompanies the book, is a rich visual and sonic experience set against a rural backdrop of remote villages in northern Laos and Thailand. Cycles-of-life music is performed through songs, leaf, fiddle, mouth harp, flutes, reeds, and the *qeej* multiple free-reed pipes. Sacred chants and percussion instruments animate a full shamanic healing ceremony. The lyrics of all vocal, instrumental, and ritual pieces are cited in Hmong and English. (2016, 75 minutes)

## **Hmong Songs of Memory, Hmong Threads of Life Exhibition**









The **Hmong Songs of Memory, Hmong Threads of Life Multi-Media Exhibition** represents an in-depth, integrative archive amassed by Victoria Vorreiter, an American researcher, documentarian, and musician, for over a decade. The exhibit comes to life through a variety of dynamic forms—extensive photographs of daily and ritual life, a film and recordings, a comprehensive collection of musical instruments, artifacts, and full sets of textiles of the four major Hmong subgroups in the Golden Triangle—White, Striped, Black, and Blue Hmong.

I was profoundly amazed by the book and ethnographic film, **Hmong Songs of Memory**, by researcher and musician Victoria Vorreiter. And my Hmong soul was astonishingly revived, when visiting her exhibition, **Hmong Songs of Memory/Hmong Threads of Life**, which recalled me of my Hmong ethnic origins.

Dr. Yang Dao Hmong Scholar, Author, Activist

To learn more about the **Hmong Songs of Memory** book, film, and exhibition please contact **Victoria Vorreiter** 

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