

# Fukuoka Prize 2017 Arts and Culture Prize

## KONG Nay

Cambodia

Bard, Master of Chapey

Born March 15, 1944 (aged 73)

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### Biography

- 1944 Born in Kampot Province, Cambodia
- 1948 Was blind at the age of 4 after contracting smallpox
- 1957 Learned how to play the *chapey*, including *Reamker* (Cambodian epic based on the Sanskrit's *Ramayana* epic), under this uncle's tuition
- 1959 Performed the *chapey* as an artist in his village for the first time
- 1970s Was used for political propaganda during the Khmer Rouge in power, however, resisted it by using his relics  
Narrowly survived with his family from the Killing Field to be executed
- 1991-2007 Played the *chapey* for the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts, Cambodia
- 2003-2012 Served as a *chapey* trainer at Cambodian Living Arts (CLA), Phnom Penh, Cambodia
- 2010 Created songs *Our Rights* and *Woman* with The Cambodian Space Project (CSP) in partnership with UNHCR for celebrating Human Rights Day
- 2011 Performed the *chapey* at the opening of TEDxPhnomPenh (Theme: Building the Future)

### Major Awards

- 1982 First prize in first *chapey* competition and another competition in Kampot
- 1991 First prize in a *chapey* competition in Phnom Penh
- 2001 Certificated Master of Chapey by the Minister of Culture and Fine Arts, Cambodia
- 2001 Gold Grand Officer of Cambodia Cultural Reputation by Cambodia Prime Minister Hun Sen
- 2002 Certificated Cambodia Chapey Dang Veng Skill by the Minister of Culture and Fine Arts, Cambodia
- 2007 Gold Grand Cross of Cambodia Cultural Reputation by Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen
- 2013 Thankfully certificated by Cambodian First Step Organization

### Major International Performances

- 2007 WOMAD (World of Music, Arts and Dance) 2007, Wiltshire, UK
- 2008 WOMAD New Zealand 2008, New Plymouth, New Zealand  
WOMADelaide 2008, Adelaide, Australia
- 2009 World Chamber Music #4 Kong Nay, Tokyo, Japan
- 2013 Season of Cambodia (SOC) Festival, New York, USA
- 2015 Geidai 21: Geidai Arts Special 2015—Disability & Arts, Tokyo, Japan

### CD Albums

*A Cambodian Bard* (INEDIT/Maison des Cultures du Monde, 2006)

*Mekong Delta Blues* (Long Tale Recordings, 2007), with Ouch Savvy, The Cambodian Space Project (CSP)

*The Rough Guide to Psychedelic Cambodia* (World Music Network, 2014), as The Cambodian Space Project & Kong Nay