NGUYEN THI HAI PHUONG – Vietnamese zither (dan tranh) player

Nguyen Thi Hai Phuong was introduced to the dan tranh (Vietnamese 16-stringed zither) at the tender age of five and began her formal training on the instrument at the Ho Chi Minh City Conservatory of Music two years later. After gaining mastery of the dan tranh over a period of twenty-one years, she graduated from the Conservatory as the best in her class.

Hai Phuong won Silver Medal at Ho Chi Minh City's Festival of Singers, Dancers and Professional Musicians in 1989, and First Prize at the "National Competition of Dan Tranh for Young Talents" in 1992, where she was specially recognized for her interpretation of new compositions.

Hai Phuong has performed numerous concerts and at many international music festivals across the globe. She recorded her first album, *Le dan tranh - Musiques d'hier et d'aujourd'hui* with Professor Tran Van Khe, one of the greatest masters of traditional Vietnamese music, in 1993 in Paris. Following in the footsteps of her mother Pham Thuy Hoan, a highly reputed musician, Hai Phuong now teaches dan tranh at the Ho Chi Minh City Conservatory of Music. She is also the co-founder of Tieng Hat Que Huong, a school that teaches all age groups to play dan tranh.