

Bright face, round face

C C C C G G⁶ G C G G

Bye - lo - li - tsa, kru - gla - li - tsa,

C C C C G G⁶ G⁷ G⁶ G

kra - sna - ya dye - vi - tsa

a a a a E E⁷ a a E E

pri do - li - nush - kye sta - ya - la,

a E a E⁷ E E E⁷ a a

ka - li - nu la - ma - la.

Byelolitsa, kruglalitsa,
 krasnaya dyevitsa
 pri dolinushkye stayala,
 kalinu lamala ...

Bright face, round face,
 beautiful young maiden
 stood there near the small valley,
 and broke twigs of juniper ...

Words and Music: Traditional song of the Kuban Cossacks

Pronunciation:

a as in "bar", *e* as in "bed", *i* as in "bid", *o* as in "bore", *u* as in "blue"

y = as in "yellow" / *ý* = dull *i*, as in "bill"

s = always voiceless, as in "son" / *z* = voiced, as in "zone"

sh = voiceless, as in "mesh" / *zh* = voiced, like the *s* in "measure"

kh = mostly rough, like the *ch* in Scotch "loch", but smooth when "e" or "i" follows

a, e, i, o, u, y = the underlined vowel signifies the stressed syllable of a word.

Arrangement for balalaika, musical notation, transcription and analogous translation: Kai Kracht

Comment:

As this song shows us, also the rough and pugnacious cossacks have only one thing on their mind: A beautiful young girl, looking all lilies and roses, with a face bright and soft, round and sound, who is standing there and breaking twigs of juniper ... Sorrowfully I don't know more than this one verse but you can easily guess how the story goes on: There is an old folk-tale that twigs of juniper, thrown on the way, will soon bring on a handsome young man. Well, a true cossack won't want a lot of asking!

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