

## Dark eyes

O - tshi tsho - rný - e, o - tshi stra - stný - e,  
 o - tshi zhgu - tshi - ye i pre - kra - sný - e -  
 kak lyu - blu ya vas, kak ba - yus ya vas!  
 Znat' u - vi - del vas, ya v nye - do - brý tshas.

Otshi tshornýe, otshi strastnýe,  
otshi zhgutshiye i prekrasnýe –  
 kak lubyu ya vas, kak bayus ya vas!  
 Znat', uvidel vas ya v nyedobrý tshas.

Okh, nyedarom vy glubiný tyemney!  
 Vizhu traur v vas po dushe maye,  
 vizhu plamya v vas ya pabyednoye:  
 Sozhenu na nyom sertse byednoye.

No nye grusten ya, nye petshalen ya,  
 uteshitelna mnye sud'ba maya:  
 Fsyo shto lutshevo v zhizni bog dal nam  
 v zhertvu otdal ya ognevym glazam!

Dark eyes, passionate eyes,  
 burning and so beautiful eyes –  
 how I am in love with you, how I am afraid of you!  
 Since I saw you I have had no good time.

Oh, your deep darkness is not for nothing!  
 I see the grief about my soul in you,  
 I see the invincible flames in you  
 which burn my poor heart.

But I am not sad, and not depressed,  
 my fate seems comforting to me:  
 All the good things God gave us in our lifetime  
 I have sacrificed for these ardent eyes.

Words: K. P. Grebenko

Music: Russian Gipsy tune, about 1800

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" / *y* = 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, γ = the underlined vowel signifies the stressed syllable of a word.

Musical notation, transcription and analogous translation: Kai Kracht

Comment:

This melody is easy to understand because it is so simple: The plain theme at the beginning - consisting of only five tones - is repeated again and again through the whole verse, but each time in a new variation, each time with more temperament, and the inversion of this theme at the end can hardly catch up the unleashed verve – you'll want to hear this tune again and again.

The words of a total and frank devotion to love match the music very well: You can give yourself up to this melody completely.

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