

Evening bells

Ve-tsher-ni zvon, ve-tsher-ni zvon,
 kak mno-ga dum na-vo-dit on.

Vetsherni zvon,
 vetsherni zvon,
 kak mnogo dum
 navodit on ...

The evening sound,
 the evening sound,
 how many thoughts
 it arouses ...

O yunýkh dnyakh
 f krayu radnom,
 gdye ya lubyil,
 gdye otshi dom.

About the days of youth
 at my home-place,
 where I loved,
 where my father's house is.

I kak ya, snim
 navyek prastyas,
 tam slýshal zvon
 f posledni ras.

And how I, from it
 parting for ever,
 heard this sound there
 for the last time.

I skolkikh nyet
 uzhe v zhivýkh,
 tagda vesyolýkh
 maladykh.

And how many no longer
 are among the living now,
 who were happy then
 and young.

I krepok ikh
 magilný son,
 nye slýshen im
 vetsherni zvon.

Deep is their
 sleep in their tombs,
 inaudible is to them
 the evening sound.

Words: I. Koslov

Music: Traditional tune

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, y = the underlined vowel signifies the stressed syllable of a word.

Musical notation, transcription and analogous translation: Kai Kracht

Comment:

Since Serge Yaroff and his Don Cossack Choir has introduced the "Evening bells" into the western world about fifty years ago, this song is – next to "Kalinka", the "Volga Boat Men" and "Stenka Razin" – one of our most popular Russian folksongs.

© Kai Kracht 2002