

Evening bells

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

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

I kak ya, snim
navyek prastyas,
tam slyshal zvon
f pasledni ras.

I skolkikh nyet
uzhe v zhivykh,
tagda vesyolykh
maladykh.

I krepok ikh
magilny son,
nye slyshen im
vetsherni zvon.

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

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

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

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

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.

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.

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