

Bandura

Vzyav by ya banduru
tai zagrav, sho znav:
Tsheres tu banduru
bandurystom stav.

I took the bandura
and I knew at once:
Because of this bandura
I had to become a bandura player.

A fsye tsheres otshi,
koly b ya ikh mav:
Za ti kari otshi
dushu b ya viddav.

And because of these dark-brown eyes,
when i saw them for the first time:
For these dark-brown eyes
I would give my soul.

Marusyno, sertse,
pozhali mene:
Vizmi moye sertse,
dai meni svoye.

Marusya, my heart,
please be so kind:
Take my heart
and give me yours.

Words and music: Ukrainian folksong, in Ukrainian language

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:

The Bandura is an Ukrainian instrument shaped almost like a lute. It has, like a guitar, a broad finger-board with six to eight strings to play the melody, and also, like a zither, up to forty harmonically tuned strings for a very sonorous accompaniment.

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