

Welcome to our Balkan Kefana Sing-Along! Whether you have sung these songs before or not, we hope that you will have fun! Remember, this is NOT a concert, and we can't hear you – so don't be shy, sing loud! Or if you just want to dance to the music – go for it, these are all danceable tunes!

- If the words are too much, sing “la-la-la” (or just sing the repeating refrains, which are **bolded!**)
- The little slash marks (“/”) indicate repetitions – and the number of slash marks is supposed to indicate the number of times the phrase is repeated. (Supposed to! ...)
- For the sake of those new to these languages, the words have been transliterated to avoid diacritical marks except “û” which sounds like the u in “butter.” “j” sounds like “Y,” “i” is as in “ski,” and “ch” is always as in “church” - more pronunciation hints are at the bottom of each page - please consult a native speaker for better hints! But remember, all vowels are pronounced, no diphthongs!
- Remember that “the folk process” results in many different versions of melodies and lyrics as they travel across time and space. If a version presented here doesn't match your memory – enjoy something new!
- Questions? Comments? Send them to: [<BalkanSinging@gmail.com>](mailto:BalkanSinging@gmail.com)

1. Ako Umram

1. Ako umram, il' zaginam, nemoj da me zhalite!
Napi'ite se rujno vino, skrshite gi chashite!

**REFRAIN://Ej-ej-ej-ej, verni drugari,
Pesna zapejte, mene spomnete!//**

2. Ako umram, il' zaginam, Pop nemoj da vikate -
Vie na grob da mi dojte, oro da zaigrate!
3. Ako umram, il' zaginam, k'e ostanat spomeni
Shto sam ludo ludovalo na mladite godini!

1. If I die or perish, don't cry for me. Drink up the red wine and break the glasses! Refrain: Hey, faithful friends, sing a song, and remember me! 2. If I die or perish, don't call the priest, (rather) come to my grave and dance a dance! 3. If I die or perish, the memories will remain of the wild times I had in my younger years!

2. Bog da go bie toj Ibraim Odzha

1. Bog da go bie, da go ubie
//toj Ibraim Odzha, bash aramija,/
Shto mi izleze na Bucheva cheshma,
//na Bucheva cheshma, so triesetmina//

2. Ottam pominale dva-tri kjumurdzhii,
//dva-tri kjumurdzhii, mnogu siromasi,/
“Mnogu ti godini, bre Ibraim Odzha!”
“Mojte godini, malku neka bidat,
vashite godini, mnogu neka bidat!

3. “Ajd' idete dolu, vo Buchevo selo,
da im kazhete na Buchevchanite,
ruchek da mi gotvet, za triesetmina!
Ruchek da mi gotvet, za triesetmina,
za trieset dushi, jagne pecheno,
jagne pecheno, i vino tserverno.”

*1. May God kill that Ibraim Odzha, that thief! 2. He came out (of hiding) at the Buchev well, with his band of thirty.
3. Several very poor charcoal sellers came by (and said):
4. “May you live many years, Ibraim Odzha!” (He replied:) “My years will be few, but may your years be many. 5. Go down to Buchev village, and tell the villagers to prepare a dinner for thirty people, 6. roast lamb and red wine!”*

3. Bolujem ja, bolujesh ti

1. Bolujem ja, bolujesh ti,
bolujemo od ljubavi,

REFRAIN:

//Jer nikoga ne ljubim ja, osim tebe, dusho moja!//

2. Zar ne znash ti, odavno vetch,
da ljubav sja medzhu nama! Ref: //Jer nikoga ...
3. Otichichu u dalek svet,
da srcu mom pronadzhem lek! Ref://Jer nikoga

1. I am ill, you are ill, we suffer from lovesickness. [Refrain: For I love no one other than you, my soul!] 2. Don't you know, from long ago that love shines between us. 3. I will travel to far away places to find a cure for my heart, [For I love no one ...

4. Chaje Shukarije

1. //Chajorije, shukarije, ma p'ir urde, pala mande,
ma p'ir urde pala mande, chaje! (**Chaje!**)//
Refrain: //Haljan pekljan man (**Chaje shukarije!**)
mo vodzhi liljan (**Chaje shukarije!**)
irin, dikh man, chaje! (**Chaje!**) //

//A-a-a-a-a-a-a...!//

//Haljan.....//

2. //Tele dikhe, vogi t'are, p'ani ane,
chajorije, shukarije, ma p'ir urde, pala mande,
ma p'ir urde pala mande chaje! (**Chaje!**)//

Refrain: //Haljan...

*1. Little girl, pretty one, don't walk slowly behind me, girl!
[REFRAIN: You have consumed (destroyed) and burned me, you have taken my heart; turn, look at me, girl!] 2. Look down, my heart is burning; bring water, little girl, pretty one!*

5. Devojko Mari Hubava

1. Devojko, mari, hubava devojko,
sipi mi vintse da pijna, devojko,
vintse i bela rakija, devojko!
2. Da pijem da se napijem devojko!
Balnusu da si kazhime devojko,
chije e balno po mnochko, devojko
3. Mojeso balno po mnochko, devojko!
Chi imam sluzhba da sluzhem devojko,
a nemam koshta gradena devojko!
4. Mojeso balno po mnochko, junache!
Chi imam ruba da pravem, junache,
chi imam dare da stegam junache!
5. Mojeso balno po mnochko devojko,
//che nemam da se zjomime, devojko!//

1. "Beautiful girl, pour some wine and strong rakija (brandy) 2. so we can get good and drunk! Let's tell each other our troubles: whose are worse? 3. Mine are worse, girl—I have to go into the army and I don't have a house built." 4. "Oh no, lad, mine are worse—I have a trousseau to sew and wedding gifts to prepare!" 5. "Mine are the worst, girl—that we are not going to be able to marry each other."

6. Jovano Jovanke

- 1) Jovano, Jovanke,
//Kraj Vardarot sedish mori, belo platno belish,
Belo platno belish, dusho, se nagore gledash. //
- 2) Jovano, Jovanke,
//Jas te tebe chekam mori, doma da mi dojdesh,
A ti ne doagjash, dusho, srtse moje Jovano. //
- 3) Jovano, Jovanke,
//Tvojata majka mori, tebe ne te pushta,
Kaj mene da dojdesh, dusho, srtse moje Jovano. //

1. You sit by the Vardar (River), bleaching your white linen, my dear, looking upwards. 2. I'm waiting for you, to come to my home, but you don't come, my dear, my heart, Jovano. 3. Your mother, won't let you come to me, my dear, my heart, Jovano.

7. Lihnida (Ohridskoto Ezero)

1. Lihnida kajche veslashe, po Ohridskoto ezero.
Nasproti nejze ribari, ribari, ribari stari drugari.
Ribari, stari drugari, krotko veslajte kajcheto,
Da ne mi prajte branovi, branovi,
ratsete da si odmoram.
- REFRAIN:
//Lihnida kajche veslashe, po Ohridskoto ezero,
Tivko si pesna peeshe, "Biljana platno beleshe"//
2. "Lihnido, mome Lihnido, ako ti prajme branovi,
So veslo kje gi skrotime, skrotime,
so ljubov kje te gledame."
"Ne sakam da gi skrotite, ne sakam da me gledate!
Jas sakam mirno ezero, ezero, dushata da si odmoram."
(REFRAIN)

1. Lihnida was rowing a boat on Lake Ohrid, next to her are some fishermen, old friends. "Fishermen, old friends, row your boat gently so you don't make waves, I want to rest my hands". REF: Lihnida was rowing a boat on Lake Ohrid she was quietly singing a song: "Biljana platno beleshe." (Biljana was bleaching fabric) 2. "Lihnida, girl, if we make waves we will calm them with our paddles, we will look at you with love". "I don't want you to calm them, I don't want you to look at me, I want a calm lake to rest my soul". (REF)

8. Liljano, mome Liljano

- 1//“Liljano mome Liljano, ja stani rano pri zori,
ja stani rano pri zori, i libeto si pregûrni.”//
- 2//Ne e izljazla Liljana, naj e izljazla majka i,
naj e izljazla majka i, i si na Gjorgji dumashe://
- 3//“Idi si Gjorgji, idi si, Liljana bolna legnala,
Liljana bolna legnala, i ne mozhe da stane.”//
- 4//“Ne mi go lazhi, mammo ma, ja sam si Gjorgji ljubila,
ja sam si Gjorgji ljubila, za nego k’e se ozhena.”//

1 Liljana, girl, Liljana, get up early, before the dawn, give your love a hug! 2 Liljana doesn't come out, instead, her mother comes, and says to Gjorgji: 3 “Go away, Gjorgji, go away, Liljana is lying ill, and cannot stand up!” 4 “Don't lie to him, mother! I love Gjorgji, he's the one I will marry!”

9. Majka na Marika dumashe

1. Majka na Marika dumashe, "Marike, kjerko Marike, //zemi go kjerko Gjorgjija, Gjorgjija prvi bekrija."//
2. "Nejkjum go majko Gjorgjija, Gjorgjija prvi bekrija! //Devet si zheni pogubil, jas kje sum majko deseta!//
3. Poslusha Marika majka si, zede go Gjorgji bekrija. //Gjorgji na Marika dumashe, "Marike, libe Marike.//
4. Nova se krchma otvara, mene me kanat da idam - //Sefteto da im napravam, firmata da im napisham."//
5. Eve go Gjorgji kaj ide, devet mu zurli svirea, //devet mu zurli svirea, deset tapani chukaa.//

1. Mother says to Marika, "Marike, daughter Marike, go marry Gjorgji, Gjorgji, the first (biggest) drunkard." 2. "I don't want, mother, Gjorgji, the biggest drunkard. Nine women he teased and I will be, mother, the tenth." 3. Marika listens to her mother and marries Gjorgji the drunkard. Gjorgji says to Marika, "Marike, dear Marike. 4. A new pub is opening, I am invited to come to be their first customer, to write the pub's name above the door." 5. Here Gjorgji comes walking, nine zurlas are playing for him. ten tapans (drums) are beating for him.

10. Majstore, majstore

1. //Pokraj tvojot dukjan koga pominuvam, da te gushnam, da te baknam posakuvam.//
REFR: Majstore, Majstore, dushava mi ja razbole,
//kazhi shto mi stori, srtse shto mi gori,
Majstore, Majstore!//
2. //Se dodeka ne te vidam jas taguvam, koga nasmev kje mi pratish, se raduvam.// REF
3. //Kolku mnogu jas te ljubam, veruvaj mi, dali mene ti me ljubish, ne kazhuvaj mi.//

1. Whenever I pass near your store, I want to hold you, I want to kiss you. REFR: Artisan, artisan, you made my soul ache, tell me what you did to me, to make my heart burn, artisan, artisan. 2. Until I see you, I feel sad, when you send me a smile, I am happy. 3. I love you so much, believe me, whether you love me, don't tell me.

11. Na khelav, na gilavav

1. Na khelav na gilavav, mi sudbina me zhalinav, // So kerdzhum e Devleske, man terne te lel ke peske //

Ref:// **Abre Devla so kere?**

Me sem terno man ma tu te lel!//

2. O tekije me p'irdzhum, mange leko na arakljum // Nasvalipe baro isi man, lestar terno me ka merav!//
3. Dusha me da ka tsida, amane ti achavav // Sa o Roma neka pijen, pale mande te na roven.//

1. I don't dance, I don't sing, I mourn my fate. What did I do God, that you took me so young? (ref:) What did you do God? I am too young for you to take me! 2. I walked by the mosques, I couldn't find a cure for myself. I am very sick, I will die young from this! 3. My soul will leave, I'll depart. Let all the Roma drink, they won't cry over me!

12. Ne odi Dzhemo/Devojche, devojche

1. //Ne odi Dzhemo, sloboden Dzhemo, pod taja Krusha planina//
2. //Kauri glava dignale, Dzhemo, site komiti stanale!//
3. //Site komiti stanale Dzhemo, sestra ti ti ja grabile!//

1. //Devojche, devojche, tsrveno jabolche, //ne stoj sproti mene, izgorev za tebe, //
2. //Izgorev za tebe kako len za voda, //kako len za voda, bosiljok za senka.//
3. //Gori, ludo, gori, i jas taka goram, //i jas taka goram kako len za voda, kako len za voda, bosiljok za senka!

Don't go, Dzhemo: *1. Don't go, Dzhemo [an Ottoman name], careless Dzhemo, below that Krusha mountain. 2. The infidels are in revolt, all the rebel bands have risen up (3.)... they have abducted your sister! **Girl, girl:** "Oh girl, little red apple, don't stand near me, I am burning for you. (2.)...like flax for water, like basil for shade!" 3. "Burn, love, just as I burn (for you), like flax for water, like basil for shade."*

13. Oj ti momche, Ohrigjanche

1.Oj ti momche ohrigjanche, shto si tolku zamisleno,
kraj ezero vezden shetash, kazhi dali nekoj chekash,
//ili srtse nekoj ti otkradna, teshko da go zaboravish?//

2.Ne me prashaj, mome mlado, machno mi e da ti kazham,
jas si imam mome lichno, tugjinche od drugo mesto,
//ljubov si dadovme, sreknjini bevme,samo edno, edno leto.//

3.Dojde vreme, si zamina, kraj vodite me ostavi,
da me machat spomenite, v' srtse trejat, ne se brishat.
//Samo dojdj libe, vrati mi se,
chekam, chekam kraj ezero!//

1. "Hey you Ohrid lad why are you so absent-minded, walking all the time near the lake? Tell me, are you waiting for someone, or did someone steal your heart, which is hard to forget?" 2. "Don't ask me, young lady, it is hard for me to tell you, but I loved a pretty lady, she was from another place. We loved each other and were happy just one summer. 3. The time came, she left, she left me near these waters, my memories torment me, they can't be erased from my heart. Just come dear, come back to me, I am waiting by the lake!"

14. Para berit kiselets

1.//Para berit kiselets, Mitse ora v' gradina//

Refrain:// **Paro le, sevdo le,
sevdo le, Paro le,
srtsevo mi go izgore!//**

2.//Daj mi Paro kiselets, uste da si oladam// (refrain)

3.//Na ti Mitse kiselets, uste da si oladish!// (refrain)

4.//Ne ti sakam kiselets, tuk ti sakam usteto!// (refrain)

1. Para is picking sorrel, Mitse is plowing in the garden.

REF: Para, my love, my heart is on fire!

2. "Give me some sorrel, Para, so I can cool my lips!"

3. "Here's some sorrel, Mitse, so you can cool your lips!"

4. "I don't want the sorrel, I really want your lips!"

15. Pavle mi pie

1.//Pavle mi pie, //vino em rakija//
//More, toj mi ispil// //tri iljadi grosha!//

REFRAIN: **Vezen sedi Pavle more, vo ladna meana,
//vino pie, em luta rakija.//**

**//Dejgidi Pavle, bekrija,
jadesh, piesh na veresija!//**

2.//Koga dojde vreme,//

vino da se plati, Pavle pari nema!

//Mu progovara// //mlada meandzhika:// REF

3. //”Dejgidi Pavle, // Pavle pijanica!//

//More ja prodaj si,//

tvoja brza konja, vino da si platish! REF

1. Pavle is drinking, wine and brandy, he already drank three thousand Groschen worth! REFRAIN: Pavle sits all day in the cool tavern, drinking wine & brandy. Oh Pavle, you drunk, you eat and drink on credit! 2. When the time comes to pay for the wine, Pavle has no money! The young tavernkeeper says to him: 3. "Oh Pavle, you drunkard, Sell your fast horse to pay for the wine!"

16. Ramo Ramo

1. Kad sam sreo druga svog, prijatelja jedinog,
Najsrechniji beshe dan, jer ne bejah vishe sam.
Pesma nas je teshila, tuga nam se smeshila,
Ali vihor sudbe zle, od mene ga odvede.

Refrain:// **Aj Ramo,**

**//Ramo, Ramo, druzhe moj, //
da li chujesh jetsaj moj?//**

U tami sad zhivim sam, k'o ugashen sunchev plam,
Jer ti si otishaö, bolji zhivot nashaö.

Al' ja ipak nadam se i zovem te: —Vrati se,

Vrati mi se, Ramo ti, sudbine smo iste mi! //Aj Ramo...

1. When I met my friend, my only friend, it was my happiest day since I was no longer alone. Song has comforted us, sorrow has smiled on us. [Refr: Hey Ramo, Ramo, Ramo my friend, do you hear my lament?] 2. I'm wandering and living alone as a burnt-out sun's flame since you left and found a better life. But I'm still hoping and calling you to return. Come back to me, Ramo, our destinies are the same.

17. Snoshti e Dobra

1. //Snoshti e Dobra kûsno sedela//

Refrain: //Oj Dobro Dobro, dobra nevesto!//

2. // Kûsno sedela poprelkuvala// *Oj Dobro ...*

3. // Ta e naprela devet vretena// *Oj Dobro ...*

4. // Devet vretena tenka osnova// *Oj Dobro ...*

5. // Ta e natkala tenki darovi// *Oj Dobro ...*

6. // Da mi daruva svekor svekûrva// *Oj Dobro ...*

7. // Svekora svekûrva, dever etûrva// *Oj Dobro ...*

8. // Dever, etûrva, po-mala zûlva// *Oj Dobro ...*

1. Last night Dobra sat up late [Refrain: Oh Dobra, good bride/wife!] 2. Sat up late spinning. 3. And she spun nine spindles-full 4. Nine spindles-full of fine warp-thread 5. And she wove fine wedding gifts 6. To gift her father-in-law, her mother-in-law 7. Her father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother-in-law [husband's brother] and his wife 8. Brother-in-law, his wife, and her younger sister-in-law [husband's unmarried sister]

18. Stani mome da zaigrash

1. Stani mome da zaigrash, da te gledam vesel jas,
//chifte, chamche igrivo, nashe oro ubavo.//

**REFRAIN: //Opa nina ninanaj, nina naj naj,
ninanaj, milo libe, nina naj naj.//**

2. Izvi mome snagata ti, tvojtâ snaga ubava!

//Da te gledam da pejam,

oti samo ednash zhiveam!// REF.

3. Samo ednash se zhiveë, ovoj zhivot lazhoven!

//dur sum zhiv da se radvam,

i da umram da ne zhalam.//REF

1. Get up and dance, girl, so I can see you and be happy! Dance "Chifte Chamche", our beautiful dance! 2. "Shake your bootie, cutie!" so I can watch and sing, because "you only live once!" 3. You only live once, and this life is all bunk - so while I'm alive I am going to have fun, and when I die, I won't have any regrets!

19. Tri godine, Kate

1. Tri godini, Kate, bolen lezham,

// ti ne dojde, Kate, da me vidish, //

ponaditsa, Kate, da mi donesesh.

2. Ponaditsa, Kate, da mi donesesh

//srede zimo, Kate, lubenitsa, //

srede leto, Kate, zholta dunja.

3. Shukur Gospod, Kate, te donese,

ponaditsa, Kate, da mi donesesh.

Otvori go, Kate, pendzhereto

da go vidam, Kate, ezeroto.

4. Da go vidam, Kate, ezeroto,

kako frla, Kate, dalgi dalgi

taka frla, Kate, moevo srtse,

moevo srtse, Kate, za tvojteto!

1. For three years I've lain sick, Kate, you haven't come to see me, Kate, to bring me a small present, Kate. 2. To bring me, a small present, Kate, In winter, a watermelon, Kate, in summer, a golden quince, Kate. 3. Thank God who gave me you to bring me, a small present, Kate. Open the window, Kate, so that I can see the lake, Kate. 4. How the waves toss about, Kate! That's the way my heart, tosses about, Kate, my heart, Kate, for yours!

20. Tri godini stana

1. //Tri godini stana, kako me zafana,

luto da me machi nashata ljubov!//

2. Ah, kolku je machno, ah, kolku e zhalno,

jaska da te ljubam, drug da te zemi!

//Ja zemi nozheto, rasparaj srtseto,

tamu kje si najdesh otrovna ljubov!//

3. Ako ne te zemam mlada ubavitsa,

jaska kje te zemam tsrna vdovitsa.

//Ako ne te zemam dolu na zemjata,

jaska kje te zemam gore na nebo!//

1. It has been three years that I have been bitterly tortured by our love. 2. Oh, how torturous, oh, how sad, that I should love you and that another should marry you! Here, take this knife, cut open my heart; there you will find a poisonous love! 3. If I cannot marry you as a young beauty, then I shall marry you as a widow dressed in black. If I cannot marry you down here on earth, then I shall marry you up in heaven!

21. Zapjevala sojka ptitsa

1. Zapjevala sojka ptitsa misli zora je
aman, aman, misli zora je.

“Ustaj Fato, ustaj zlato, spremaj darove,
aman, aman, spremaj darove!”

2. “Ja sam mlada i sirota, nemam darova,
aman, aman, nemam darova!”

“Kad si mlada i sirota, shto se udajesh
aman, aman, shto se udajesh?”

3. “Udala me stara majka, nisam ni znala
aman, aman, nisam ni znala!

“Kad mi svilu obukoshe, mishliya Bajram je,
aman, aman, mishliya Bajram je!

4. “Kad mi drago uvedoshe, mishliya brat mi je,
aman, aman, mishliya brat mi je!

“Zagrli me, poljubi me, vidoh shta mi je,
aman, aman, vidoh shta mi je!”

1. The jaybird was singing, thinking it was dawn. “Wake up, Fatima, precious, prepare your wedding gifts!” 2. “I am young and poor, I don’t have anything to give!” “If you are young and poor, why did you (get) betrothed?” 3. “My old mother betrothed me, I didn’t know anything about it! When they were dressing me in silks, I thought it was (for) Eid (Muslim holiday). 4. When they brought my beloved, I thought it was my brother, (but) when he started hugging and kissing me, (then) I saw (what was going on)!”