

Summary of the Songs

Hey, klezmorim

Klezmorim - musicians who travel through the country with their traditional instruments, fiddle, clarinet, bass and maybe an accordeon. They were very popular, accompanying for instance wedding festivities.

Oy dortn, dortn

A very nostalgic song.

"You expelled me into far countries. How many nights we have sat together, talked about love and wept bitter tears."

Di grine kuzine

My beautiful, light-hearted cousin. She used to always move around, laughing, dancing and singing.

The hard work she had to do as an immigrant in America ruined her health and took the vitality from her. As recently I asked her how she is doing, she replied very bad-tempered: "I want the country of Columbus to burn down!"

Sevastopol

In the middle of the twenties of the 20th century the Soviets settled Jews on the Crimea. The song describes the enthusiasm of the settlers who hopefully face their new challenge - at the tractor, the flail and the combine harvester.

Oyfn veg shteyt a boym.

I want to be a bird and keep the lonesome tree company through the heavy winter and cheer him up with a lovely song.
My poor child, you will freeze to death. Put on a fur, scarf,

boots and the cap. Alas, the clothes are too heavy to fly. The mother's love has prevented her child from lifting up in the air.

Donay

If you have wings to fly you will never be enslaved by anyone...

Der freylekher shnayder

Listen to my song, dear friends. I'm a poor taylor-boy, patronized by my principal, sitting in a tiny working-place. But the song I've heard today makes my whole body dance. although I've not had enough to eat and I'm not so badly off.

Oy bruderl lechayim

A drinking song. Your health brother - cheers. If you are haunted by bad feelings - just have a glass of wine and life will appear to you in a friendly light.

Hopkele

Let's all dance and enjoy life!

A nigndl

A certain song has accompanied us our whole life. We all love it and sing it today as it has already been sung by our grand-parents, by our parents and the whole rest of the family - "di gantse mishpokhe".

Shvartse karshlekh

Two waltzes combined to a little potpourri.

Black cherries we pick - red ones we leave. Beautiful girls we take - ugly ones we ignore.

Vu iz dos gesele tells us about a world that has already disappeared a long time ago.

Khasene Lid

A combination of four wedding-/drinking-songs.

The first song accompanies the whole medley as a leitmotiv. "Ayaya..". All our good wishes to the world. That's what we sing for without ever getting tired. The second song "Oyfn oyvn...." tells us about a young girl who sits on a stove sewing at a silk dress. She very willingly gives her attention to a lad approaching her.

In the third song a mother takes delight in leading to the wedding-ceremony her only child. So: "Shpilt mir klezmerimlakh..", play us a happy song and let's all dance and celebrate.

Finally, in song no.4 everybody drinks to friendship and to health, to the friends and to those who cannot be with us today "A gleyzele lekhayim".

Sha - shtil - Potpourri

Three - not so very serious "rabbi-songs".

-Hush, the rabbi goes to dance again - and the walls are shaking and the table dances too. So let us all clap our hands and stamp with our feet.

- As the rabbi dances, sings, sleeps, laughs - all the chassidim dance, sing, sleep, laugh.

- Let us, children, sing a joyful song. It is about a foolish rabbi, a town full of fools, and at the end you ask yourself who really are the fools and who are the wise men.

Abi gezond

Another potpourri: five classics of the American-Jewish musical-repertoire.

A bissel zun a bissel regn. - a bit of sun a bit of rain.

Yossel Yossel - I'm still so much in love with you.

Shen vi di levone - You're as beautiful as the moon as bright as the stars.

Bai mir bistu shen

Oy mame bin ich farlibt - I'm so much in love with a klezmer-boy!



Summary and translation: Karin Koch

Jossif Gofenberg - Gofenberg and Choir

Kontakt: www.klezmerchidesch.de

☎ Jossif Gofenberg 0049 (0)30 827 027 88

☎ Maria Ulrich 0049 (0)30 833 07 63