

Di Arbuzn (*The Watermelons*)

Poem by Mendl Abarbanel (1888-1957), Soviet Yiddish poet
Set to music by Ben Yomen (1901-1970), born in Ukraine, emigrated to US
and taught music at Arbeter Ring shuln and Camp Kinder Ring

Song made popular by the Pennywhistlers, an all-woman folk group led by
ethnomusicologist Ethel Raim

Yiddish Lyrics	English translation (not singable)
S'iz der step shoyn opgeshorn, Un shoyn alts tsunoyfgenumen. Libster mayner, kum tsu forn, Ikh vel vartn oyf dayn kumen, hey!	The steppes have been mowed, And everything has been gathered. My dearest, come visit me - I await your arrival.
Di arbuzn zaynen tsaytik, S'geyt di zaft fun zey ariber, Ful mit ziskayt ongegoshn, Vi mayn harts iz ful mit libe.	The watermelons are ripe, Their juice is overflowing, They're full of sweetness, As my heart is full of love.
Un di karshn, libster mayner, Zaynen shvarts vi dayne oygn. Ongeshotn oyf di beymer Un di tsvaygn zikh azh boygn.	And the cherries, my dearest, Are black like your eyes. The trees are loaded And the branches are bending.
Kum tsu forn, libster mayner, Un genug shoyn undz tsu troymen, Rayf un tsaytik iz mayn libe, Vi s'iz tsaytik mayne floymen!	Come visit me, my dearest, And enough of this dreaming. My love is ripe and ready, Ready as my plums are!