

## Di Makhetonim Geyen (*The in-laws are coming*)

Words adapted from Mark Warshawsky

Music by Saul Berezovsky

Mark Warshawsky (1840-1907), a Russian lawyer, wrote Yiddish songs for his friends with no intent to publish. Sholem Aleichem discovered him, exclaiming, "If I did not know that those are your own songs, I would swear that I heard them sometime performed by my mother!" Many of Warshawsky's songs were so popular that they were considered folk songs, including *Oyfn Pripetshik*, *Di Mizinke Oysgegebn*, and *Akhtsik Er Un Zibetsik Zi*. Warshawsky wrote his own melody to *Di Makhetonim Geyen*.

Saul Berezovsky (1908-1975), a Polish composer for Yiddish theater and film, reset these lyrics to his own music. The lyrics are slightly different from Warshawsky's, and it is possible that Berezovsky adapted the lyrics to fit his new melody.

This song is in the style of a *badkhn*, an entertainer at traditional Eastern European Jewish weddings. The in-laws were welcomed with great ceremony and music. The *badkhn* often improvised couplets poking fun at various wedding attendees.

### *Yiddish Lyrics*

Di makhetonim geyen shoy'n!  
Lomir zikh freyen, shat nor, shat!  
Der khosn iz gor a parshoy'n  
Shpilt a lidl dem khosns tsad!

Ay, ay, ay, tshi-ri-bam....

Dem khosns shvester freydl-kroyn  
Dreyt zikh vi a dreydl, shat nor, shat  
Nemt zi arayn in redl shoy'n  
Shpilt a lidl dem khosns tsad.

Ay, ay, ay, tshi-ri-bam....

Ot geyt der feter mindik-koyt  
Vos hobn mir gezindikt, shat nor, shat  
Er blozt zikh vi an indik royt  
Shpilt a lidl dem khosns tsad.

Ay, ay, ay, tshi-ri-bam....

### *English translation (not singable)*

The in-laws are coming!  
Let's greet them, quiet!  
The groom is quite a big shot,  
Play a song for the groom's side!

Ay, ay, ay, tshi-ri-bam....

The groom's sister Freydl  
Spins like a dreydel, quiet!  
Bring her into the circle,  
Play a song for the groom's side!

Ay, ay, ay, tshi-ri-bam....

Here comes Uncle Mindik  
Whom we have wronged, quiet!  
He is puffed up like a red turkey!  
Play a song for the groom's side!

Ay, ay, ay, tshi-ri-bam....