

Der Yokh (The Yoke)

Catalan by composer; Yiddish by Yuri Vedenyapin for The Klezmatics

Lluis Llach

REFRAIN

SOPRANO
Tsu-za-men ken - en mir a - roys, Zol zayn a sho, a tog, a vokh, Er vet shoy'n fal - n, fal - n,

ALTO
Tsu-za-men ken - en mir a - roys, Zol zayn a sho, a tog, a vokh, Er vet shoy'n fal - n, fal - n,

TENOR
Tsu-za-men ken - en mir a - roys, Zol zayn a sho, a tog, a vokh, Er vet shoy'n fal - n, fal - n,

BASS
Tsu-za-men ken - en mir a - roys, Zol zayn a sho, a tog, a vokh, Er vet shoy'n fal - n, fal - n,

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S. fal - n, Der tse - foyl - ter alt - er yokh, Az ikh zol tsi - en in der mit, Un du zolst

A. fal - n, Der tse - foyl - ter alt - er yokh, Az ikh zol tsi - en in der mit, Un du zolst

T. fal - n, Der tse - foyl - ter alt - er yokh, Az ikh zol tsi - en in der mit, Un du zolst

B. fal - n, Der tse - foyl - ter alt - er yokh, Az ikh zol tsi - en in der mit, Un du zolst

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S. tsi - en in der zayt, Er vet shoy'n fal - n, fal - n, fal - n, De-molt ver - n mir ba-frayt.

A. tsi - en in der zayt, Er vet shoy'n fal - n, fal - n, fal - n, De-molt ver - n mir ba-frayt.

T. tsi - en in der zayt, Er vet shoy'n fal - n, fal - n, fal - n, De-molt ver - n mir ba-frayt.

B. tsi - en in der zayt, Er vet shoy'n fal - n, fal - n, fal - n, De-molt ver - n mir ba-frayt.

Der Yokh

DER YOKH (L'ESTACA)

Catalan words and music by Lluís Llach

Yiddish translation by Yuri Vedenyapin

V. 1: Mir zaynen geshtanen in tsveyen,
Es hot nokh nisht getogt,
A ferdl farbay un a vogn,
Un kh'hob dem zeydn gezogt:
Tsi zestu af undzere rukns
Dem shvern ayzernem yokh,
Ken men nisht geyn, nisht flien,
Krigt men a bis un a shtokh.

Refrain: Tsuzamen kenen mir aroys,
Zol zayn a sho, a tog, a vokh,
Er vet shoy'n faln, faln, faln,
Der tsefoylter alter yokh.
Az ikh zol tsien in der mit,
Un du zolst tsien in der zayt,
Er vet shoy'n faln, faln, faln,
Demolt vern mir bafrayt.

V. 2: Shoy'n lange yorn shteyen mir
Aropgedrikt fun dem brokh
Es minert zikh mayn koyekh,
Es vert alts shverer der yokh.
Vayl khotsh tsefoylt un farzhavert,
Dokh halt er vi a tsvang,
Nor ven ikh halt shoy'n baym faln,
Her ikh dem zeyd'ns gezang:

Refrain: Tsuzamen kenen mir aroys...

V. 3: Der zeyde iz shoy'n lang avek,
Me' hert shoy'n nisht zayn kol,
Es hot im avekgetrogn a vint,
Nor ikh shtey do vi a mol.
Es geyen naye yinglekh farbay,
Shtrek ikh tsu zey di hent
Un zing far zey dem zeyd'ns lid,
Vos er hot mikh gelernt.

Refrain: Tsuzamen kenen mir aroys...
Day, day, day, day....

THE YOKE (THE STAKE)

We stood together,
It was not yet day,
A horse and wagon passed by,
And I spoke with my grandfather:
Can you not see on our backs
That heavy iron yoke
We can't go, can't fly,
We get a bite and a sting.

Together we escape
Be it an hour, a day, a week,
Soon it will fall, fall, fall –
That rotten old yoke.
If I pull from the middle,
And you pull from the side,
Soon it will fall, fall, fall,
And we will all be free.

We've stood by for many years,
Worn down by the fissure
My strength is reduced
The yoke becomes all the more heavy.
Although it's rotten and rusty
And it grips us like pliers,
But when I'm ready to fall
I hear my grandfather's song:
Together we escape...

My grandfather is long gone,
His voice can no longer be heard.
He was carried away by the wind,
And I remain here as before.
As new youngsters pass by,
I reach out my hand to them
And sing for them my grandfather's song,
The same one he taught to me.
Together we escape...

Vi Lang? (Vakht oyf!)

Frank London & the Klezmatics

SOPRANO

ALTO

BASS

Vi lang, o vi lang? Vi lang, o vi lang? Vi lang, o vi lang? Vi lang, o vi lang?