

# ***Tumbalalaika*** - traditional Yiddish and Russian folksong

This song has been translated into many languages – feel free to sing it in the version you know best. The Chorus is the easiest section for a singalong.

## ***Verse 1***

Shteyt a bocher, shteyt un tracht,  
Tracht un tracht a gantze nacht,  
Vemen tsu nemen un nit far shemen,  
Vemen tsu nemen un nit far shemen.

## **CHORUS**

**Tumbala, tumbala, tumbalalaika**

**Tumbala, tumbala, tumbalalaika**

**Tumbalalaika,**

**Shpil balalalaika,**

**Tumbalalalaika,**

**Freylach zol zayn.**

## ***Verse 2***

Meydl, meyd, ch'vel bay dir fregen  
Vos ken vaksn, vaksn on regen?  
Vos ken brenen un nit oyfhern?  
Vos ken benken, veynen on treren?

## **CHORUS**

## ***Verse 3***

Narisher bocher, vos darfstu fregn?  
A shteyn ken vaksn, vaksn on regen  
Libe ken brenen un nit oyfhern  
A harts kon benkn, veynen on treren

## **CHORUS**

**CHORUS** *[very fast, with big ending]*

# ***Tumbalalaika*** – an English version

There are many versions of this song, and many translations!

## ***Verse 1***

A young lad is thinking, thinking all night:  
Would it be wrong, he asks, or maybe right,  
Should he declare his love, dare he choose,  
And would she accept, or will she refuse?

## **CHORUS**

**Tumbala, tumbala, tumbalalaika**

**Tumbala, tumbala, tumbalalaika**

**Tumbalalaika,**

**Play balalalaika,**

**Tumbalalalaika,**

**Joyfully play**

## ***Verse 2***

Maiden, maiden tell me again,  
What can grow, grow without rain,  
What can burn for many years,  
What can yearn and cry without tears?

## **CHORUS**

## ***Verse 3***

Silly young lad, why ask again?  
It's a stone that can grow, grow without rain,  
It's love that can burn for many long years,  
And the heart that can yearn  
And cry without tears.

## **CHORUS**

**CHORUS *[very fast, with big ending]***

**Note:** the balalaika is a traditional stringed instrument