

Circassian Music & Musicology

The Story of a Song: 'My Pug-Nosed One!'

Адыгэ уэрэд хьэлэмэт: «СИ ПАКЪ!»

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In the (Plains) Shapsugh tradition, the famous song 'Siy Paq!' ('My Pug-Nosed One!') was sung to a round dance (удж хьурей; *wij x'wrey*) as part of the celebrations in the house of the bride. This ancient classic is amongst the popular songs of banter. Three versions of the song shall be presented, together with audio files of performances by various artists.

The first is the original version of the song. The words in (Shapsugh) Circassian are given. For a rough English translation, see the English translation of the second version of the song provided below. The performance on the accompanying audio file is by the Adigean State Folk Song Ensemble 'Yislahmiy'.

«СИ ПАКЪ!» уэрэдыр шапсыгъ адыгэхэм я репертуарым щыщ, удж хьурей ящым деж шыжагъу шытахэт. Уэрэдыр зыгъэзашгъэр Адыгей Къэралыгъуэм и Уэрэд Жыпакгъуэ Ансамблым «Ислъамый».



Adigean State Folk Song Ensemble 'Yislahmiy' in concert.

Адыгей Къэралыгъуэм и Уэрэд Жыпакгъуэ Ансамблым «Ислъамый» и гуфгъуэ пшыхь.

СИ ПАКЪ!

Орайда си Пакъ,
Хьатрамэ гуцэмэ я Пакъ,
О пхьэцоккэ рыкIори
Си Пакъэ гуцэмэ,
ХьакIэщы кIуалэри си Пакъ,
ДжэнэкIэ дышгъэри
Си Пакъэ гуцэмэ,
Мэстэ гъэшгъуери зыIап,
А Стамбулы шхончыри
Лъэбыфы гуцэмэ,
Къолэ бзыуцыфыри зыкIышгъу
Мэзыпчэныпшгъэри
Си Пакъэ гуцэмэ,
Пшгъэшгъэ икгъугъэри си Пакъ.

Орайда си Пакъ,
Хьатрамэ гуцэмэ я Пакъ,
А зимыгъэсысэуи мэуджы гуцэмэ
Хьатрамэ гуцэмэ я Пакъ,
Дахэри къэбгъэу джыжыщты гуцэмэ
Хьатрамэ гуцэмэ я Пакъ,
Пакгъэри уджэмэ ахахэ гуцэмэ,
Уджыхэр лъэху лъэушгъэхи,
Пакгъэри уджыми хэкIыжы гуцэмэ,
Уджыхэр мэщэо плIаох.

The Adigean State Folk Song Ensemble ‘YisIhamiy’—‘YisIhamiy’ («Ислъамый») is one of a number of folk song groups that keep the old bard traditions alive. It boasts of a varied and rich repertoire of ancient and traditional songs. The Ensemble’s mission also includes the rearrangement of folk songs and chants into modern formats to bestow contemporary relevance on them without sacrificing their authenticity and historical value. The Ensemble displayed its artistic wares in many festivals held in countries across Europe and Asia, and made several tours in countries where Circassian diasporas are concentrated. It celebrated its 15th anniversary in January 2006. Its founder and artistic director is AsIhencheriy Nexay, People’s Artist of the Russian Federation. The choreography of the Ensemble is designed by Viktoria

Yedij. The Ensemble boasts of a number of world-class singers, including Susanna X'wak'we, Shemsudin Qwmiqw, Rima Schawe, and Saniyat Aghirjaneqwe.



'Yislhamiy' performing 'Haghewijim yizefak'we' ('The Dance of Haghewij').

Адыгей Къэралыгъуэм и Уэрэд ЖыпакIуэ Ансамблым «Ислъамый»
«ХЪАГЪЭУДЖЫМ ИЗЭФАКIО» егъэзащIэ.

Kabardian Version

The second version of the song, which was adapted to Kabardian by the musicologist Vladimir Bereghwn (Бэрэгъун Владимир; Baragunov) and sung by him, is one of the high points of Circassian music. The words of the song are provided in Circassian and English (translated by Amjad Jaimoukha).

Мы кыкIэлъыкIуэну къэбэрдейбзэмкIэ къеIуэ уэрэдым и цIэр «СИ ПAKЪ!». Уэрэдыр зыгъэзащIэр Бэрэгъун Владимирщ.

Си Пакъ!	My Pug-Nosed One!
Ежью. Арэда, арэда, Арэдэ, радэ, арадэ.	Chorus: Areda, areda, Arede, rade, arada.
Арадэ си Пакъ, Пакъэри дахэу мэуджыр, ПхъэвакъэрикIуэри си Пакъ, Мастэ гъэфийхэр зи Iэпэ, Зи Iэпэ лъапIэр икьюгъэ, Пщашэ икьюгъэри си Пакъ, Арадэ си Пакъ.	Arade my Paq, The pug-nosed one dances so well, My Paq is wearing wooden sabots, ¹ She whose fingers make the needle whistle, Whose precious fingers are in good measure, My Paq is a lass in full plenitude, Arade my Paq.
Ежью. Арэда, арэда, Арэдэ, радэ, арадэ.	Chorus: Areda, areda, Arede, rade, arada.
Арадэ си Пакъ, Пакъэри дахэу мэуджыр, IэфракIэ кIэщIыр си Пакъ, МастэкIэ щридэри си Пакъ, Дэным хуэижэри си Пакъ, Дэным хуэIэзэри си Пакъ, Арадэ си Пакъ.	Arade my Paq, The pug-nosed one dances very nicely, My Paq is short-elbowed, When my Paq sews with the needle, My Paq is enamoured of sewing, My Paq is a skilful seamstress, Arade my Paq.

¹ Young women and girls of princely and noble houses used wooden footwear (пхъэвакъэ; *px'evaqe*) decorated with various bone adornments, and quite often with silver and gilding. These had a height of about 7cm, affording insulation from the mud and dirt when the fair lasses had to go about their business in the courtyard.

<p>Ежью. Арэда, арэда, Арэдэ, радэ, арадэ.</p> <p>Арадэ си Пакъ, Пакъэри дахэу мэуджыр, Мастэ пэгъэплъыр си Пакъ, Дыщэплъыжьидэри си Пакъ, Нэжыгъуц утIэрэзри си Пакъ, Дахэу дэщIынри си Пакъ, Арадэ си Пакъ.</p> <p>Ежью. Арэда, арэда, Арэдэ, радэ, арадэ.</p> <p>Арадэ си Пакъ, Пакъэри дахэу мэуджыр, Пакъэри уджым яыхьэм, Къоуджхэр пэльэуэ-плIахэу, Пакъэри уджым хэIыжмэ, Къоуджхэр къэшэуэ-плIахэу, Арадэ си Пакъ.</p> <p>Ежью. Арэдэ, арэда.</p>	<p>Chorus: Areda, areda, Arede, rade, arada.</p> <p>Arade my Paq, The pug-nosed one dances so well, My Paq heats the tip of the needle, My Paq does needlework with red gold, My Paq has curls on her temples, A faithful companion is my Paq, Arade my Paq.</p> <p>Chorus: Areda, areda, Arede, rade, arada.</p> <p>Arade my Paq, The pug-nosed one dances very nicely, When my Paq joins the <i>wij</i> dancers, The dancers become animated, And when my Paq leaves the dance, The dancers break into threes and fours, Arade my Paq.</p> <p>Chorus: Arede, areda.</p>
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Vladimir Bereghwn (Бэрэгъун Владимир) (1939-1998), Honoured Cultural Worker of the Russian Federation and People's Artist of the Kabardino-Balkarian Republic, was one of the best singers of the 1970s and 80s in Circassia. Although he recorded many fine and memorable traditional and modern songs, his powerful operatic voice was best suited for ancient anthems. He documented and recorded a number of Pantheonic chants, including 'Mezgwache' («МЭЗГУАЩЭ»; 'Forest-Lady'). His wide Nart repertoire included an emotive rendering of 'Nartizh Wered' («НАРТЫЖЬ УЭРЭД»; 'Song of the Ancient Narts'), which causes tingling sensations in the back of one's head, 'Ashemez yi Pshinalhe' («АШЭМЭЗ И ПШЫНАЛЪЭ»; 'Ashemez's Melody'), 'Bedinoqwe yi Pshinalhe' («БЭДЫНОКЪУЭ И ПШЫНАЛЪЭ»; 'Bedinoqwe's Melody'), 'Sosriqwe Maf'e Qeih' («СОСРЫКЪУЭ МАФIЭ КЪЕХЪ»; 'Sosriqwe Fetches Fire'), and many others. His heroic/historical repertory included 'Senjeley yi Wered' («СЭНДЖЭЛЕЙ И УЭРЭД»; 'The Song of Prince Sanjalay'), in which he evokes the

heroism of the medieval prince-warrior. For more information on the great bard, visit [Vladimir Bereghwn](http://jaimoukha.synthasite.com/vladimir-bereghwn.php) (<<http://jaimoukha.synthasite.com/vladimir-bereghwn.php>>).

Бэрэгун Владимир

Бэрэгун Владимир (1939-1998) адыгэ уэрэджыпакIуэ цIэрыIуэхуэм я нэхъыщхъэу еплъытэ хъунущ. Абы и макъ гъуэээджэ лъэшгуэрэм удихъэхауэ уодаIуэ. Абы игъээщIат пасэрей нарт уэрэд зыбжанэ, псалъэм папщIэ «АШЭМЭЗ И ПШЫНАЛЪЭ», «НАРТЫЖЪ УЭРЭД», «БЭДЫНОКЪУЭ И ПШЫНАЛЪЭ», «СОСРЫКЪУЭ МАФIЭ КЪЕХЪ» жыхуиIэ уэрэдхэр. Лыхъужыгъэ теухуа уэрэд куэд зыгъээщIа Бэрэгуным, псалъэм папщIэ Пщы Сэнджэлей (Жылэгъуэт Идар и къуэ Къанкылыш и къуэщ) зи гугъу ещI уэрэдым «СЭНДЖЭЛЕЙ И УЭРЭД».

Rock 'n' Roll

The third presentation of the song 'Siy Paq!' is a hard rock rendition by the Oshten Variety Ensemble. The words are those of the first version. There are a number of hard rock and heavy metal bands in Circassia. Besides Oshten, the [Noba Rey Band](http://nobarey.com) (<<http://nobarey.com>>) in the Kabardino-Balkarian Republic stands out. For more on the Circassian rock scene, visit [Circassian Rocks!](http://jaimoukha.synthasite.com/circassian-rocks.php) (<<http://jaimoukha.synthasite.com/circassian-rocks.php>>).

Ещанэрей версиер зыгъэзащІэр Адыгей Къэралым и Оштен Эстраднэ Ансамбль. Мы уэрэдыр жанркІэ «хард рок».

Oshten Variety Ensemble—The Oshten (=name of a peak in the Republic of Adigea, 2,804m, near the border with Abkhazia to the south) Variety Ensemble was established in 1996 upon the initiative of the composer and musician Aslhen Ghwet (Gotov). The artistic director of the Ensemble is Aliy Khachak. Distinguished vocal soloists in the Ensemble include People's Artist of the Adigean Republic Tamara Nexay and Honoured Artist of the Adigean Republic Sima Kuysokova. The music of the Ensemble is a fusion of the traditional and modern, where traditional instruments are played alongside modern ones (lead guitar and electric bass guitar).



Oshten rocking away!

Оштен и джэгуакІуэхэм джэгур щІагъэст!