

RETURN TO

BALKANARAMA

Ushti, ushti baba

Here's a Romani song about the moment during the wedding ceremony when the bride's dowry, the *cheiz*, is brought out of her house so it can accompany her to her new husband's. It can accompany the Rom dance *chochek*.

The musical score is written for a 2/4 time signature in a key with one flat (B-flat). It consists of four staves. The first staff is labeled '1 Instr.' and contains a melodic line with notes and rests, with chords D, Cm, D, Cm, D written below. The second staff continues the instrumental melody with similar chords. The third staff is labeled '2 Vocal' and contains a vocal line with notes and rests, with chords Gm, D, Cm, D written below. The fourth staff continues the vocal line with the same chords. The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Each verse is repeated.

Ushti, ushti, baba	<i>Wake up, wake up, father</i>
o davulja maren	<i>The drum is beating</i>
o davulja maren, baba	<i>The drum is beating</i>
me phenjake aven	<i>They're coming for my sister</i>

Me phenjake aven	<i>They're coming for my sister</i>
e najsukarjakje	<i>The most beautiful one</i>
e najsukarjakje, baba	<i>The most beautiful one, father</i>
e najtiknorjakje	<i>The smallest one</i>

Ushti, ushti, baba	<i>Wake up, wake up, father</i>
o cheizi ikal	<i>The dowry is being taken out</i>
o cheizi ikal, baba	<i>The dowry is being taken out</i>
e najtiknorjakje	<i>The smallest one</i>

Ushti, ushti, baba	<i>Wake up, wake up, father</i>
o davulja maren	<i>The drum is beating</i>
o davulja maren, baba	<i>The drum is beating</i>
me phenjake aven	<i>They're coming for my sister</i>

Music: Monitor CD 71496, "Songs of a Macedonian Gypsy."

Lyrics: Carol Silverman got them from Esma Redzhepova, the famous Rom singer, and translated them. The Monitor recording is sung in Romany by two Slavic Macedonians; Carol says their accent leaves something to be desired.

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