

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*.

Each verse is repeated.

Ushti, ushti, baba o davulja maren o davulja maren, baba me phenjake aven	<i>Wake up, wake up, father The drum is beating The drum is beating They're coming for my sister</i>
Me phenjake aven e najsukarjakje e najsukarjakje, baba e najtiknorjakje	<i>They're coming for my sister The most beautiful one The most beautiful one, father The smallest one</i>
Ushti, ushti, baba o cheizi ikal o cheizi ikal, baba e najtiknorjakje	<i>Wake up, wake up, father The dowry is being taken out The dowry is being taken out The smallest one</i>
Ushti, ushti, baba o davulja maren o davulja maren, baba me phenjake aven	<i>Wake up, wake up, father The drum is beating The drum is beating 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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