

for mixed chorus a cappella

Traditional Yiddish Folksong

Michael Kaulkin

$\text{♩} = 144$

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

* - "badlady" is an attempt to imitate the strumming of the balalayka, a Russian folk instrument similar to a guitar. The "lay" syllable should sound like the word "lie".

tum - ba tum - ba tum - ba tum - ba

ba - di - la - di - lay ba - di - la - di - lay ba - di - la - di - lay ba - di - la - di - lay

la - ba - tum - la - ba - tum - la - ba - tum - la - ba - tum

(melody)

S.

A.

T.

B.

tum - ba tum - ba tum - ba tum - ba

ba - di - la - di - lay ba - di - la - di - lay ba - di - la - di - lay ba - di - la - di - lay

la - ba - tum - la - ba - tum - la - ba - tum - la - ba - tum

S.

A.

T.

B.

9

mp

Shley a bo kher shley un trakt.

tum - ba tum - ba tum - ba tum - ba

ba - di - la - di - lay ba - di - la - di - lay ba - di - la - di - lay ba - di - la - di - lay

la - ba - tum - la - ba - tum - la - ba - tum - la - ba - tum

13

S. Trakht un trakht a gan - tse nakht. Ve-men zu

A. *mp* Trakht un trakht a gan - tse nakht. *p dolce* Vem -

T. *p* tum ba-di-la-di-lay tum ba-di-la-di-lay tum ka Vem -

B. *p* tum - ba - la tum - ba - la tum - ba - la - lay - ka tum

18

S. nem - en un nit far - shem - en Vem - en tzu nem - en

A. - en tum tum un nit far - shem - en

T. - - - en tsu nem - en nit far - shem - en

B. tum tum tum tum tum tum -

23

S. *p* un nit far - shem - en tum - ba - la, tum - ba - la tum - ba - la -

A. *p* tum tum tum tum tum tum tum - ba - la, tum - ba - la tum - ba - la -

T. *mf* tum tum tum tum tum tum tum ba - la - lay - ka ba-di-la-di-lay

B. ka - lay - la - lay tum - ba tum - ba tum - ba tum - ba - la -

33

S. *mf* *p* rum-ba - la - lay - ka Shpil ba - la - lay - ka, frey-lekh zol

A. *mf* *p* rum-ba - la - lay - ka Shpil ba - la - lay - ka, frey-lekh zol

T. *mf* rum-ba - la - lay - ka Shpil ba - la - lay - ka

B. *mf* *p* rum-ba - la - lay - ka rum-ba - la - lay - ka, frey-lekh zol

40

S. zayn. tum tum tum tum tum ba - dl - la - dl - lay

A. zayn. tum ba - dl - la - dl - lay tum tum tum tum tum

T. ka p ba - dl - la - dl - lay tum tum tum tum tum

B. zayn. tum - ba - la tum - ba - la tum - ba - la tum - ba - la

45

S. *ba-di-la-di-lay* *ba-di-la-di-lay* *ba-di-la-di-lay* *ba-di-la-di-lay*

A. *tum - ba* *tum - ba* *tum - ba* *tum - ba*

T. *tum* *tum* *tum* *tum*

B. *Mey - di, mey di,*

mp (melody)

49

S. *ba-di-la-di-lay* *ba-di-la-di-lay* *ba-di-la-di-lay* *ba-di-la-di-lay*

A. *tum - ba* *tum - ba* *ba-di-la-di-lay* *ba-di-la-di-lay*

T. *tum* *tum - ba - la tum*

B. *'khvil bay dir frey - gn vos ken vak - - sn*

mp *p*

53

S. *ba-di-la-di-lay* *ba-di-la-di-lay* *ba-di-la-di-lay* *ba-di-la-di-lay*

A. *ba-di-la-di-lay* *ba-di-la-di-lay* *ba-di-la-di-lay* *ba-di-la-di-lay*

T. *tum* *tum* *tum* *tum*

B. *vaks - - sn on re - gn? Vos ken bren - en*

B.

T.

A.

S.

67

71

S. *p* tum - ba - la shpil ba - la - lay - ka - Frey

A. *mp* tum - ba - la - lay - ka shpil ba - la - lay - ka tum - ba - la

T. *p* tum - ba - la - lay - ka

B. *p* tum - ba - la - lay - ka shpil ba - la - lay - ka tum - ba - la - lay - ka

77

S. *mp* - lekh zol zayn. Na-rish - er bo-kher vos darts-tu

A. *mp* tum - ba - la - lay - ka tum - ba - la tum - ba - la

T. *mp* tum - ba - la - lay - ka tum - ba - la tum - ba - la

B. *pp* frey-lekh zol zayn. tum(m) ba - la tum

poco rit. - - - - - Meno Mossò (♩=c.132)

83

S. Frey - gn? Shiteyn-en ken vak-sn vak sn on re - gn Li-be ken bren - en

A. *pp* tum(m) tum tum tum tum tum tum tum tum tum

T. *pp* tum(m) tum tum tum tum tum tum tum tum tum

B. *pp* tum(m) tum tum tum tum tum tum tum tum tum

8/8
34840

lay - ka tum - ba - la - lay - ka, frey-lekh zol zayn ba-dl-la-dl-lay
lay - ka tum - ba - la - lay - ka, frey-lekh zol zayn ba-dl-la-dl-lay
lay - ka tum - ba - la - lay - ka, frey-lekh zol zayn ba-dl-la-dl-lay
lay - ka tum - ba - la - lay - ka, frey-lekh zol zayn.

102

turn - ba - la - lay - ka -
turn - ba - la - lay - ka -
turn - ba - la - lay - ka -
turn - ba - la - lay - ka -

Shpil ba - la -
Shpil ba - la -
Shpil ba - la -
Shpil ba - la -

mf
mf
mf
mf

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Oakland, California composer Michael Kaulkin has written several works for orchestra, chorus and the musical stage. He holds a Master of Music from the San Francisco Conservatory, and previously studied at the Franz Liszt Academy in Budapest, Hungary. Visit www.MichaelKaulkin.com for more information.

About the Composer

This choral setting employs the use of instrument-like sounds imitating the strumming of the *balalyka*, a Russian folk instrument similar to a guitar, and contrasts the upbeat “*Tumbalalyka*” refrain with dark harmonic colors and occasional smooth polyphonic textures.

Sheyt a bokher. Sheyt un trakht. Trakht un trakht a gantse nakht. Vemen zu nemen un nit farshe-men. Tumbalalalika, shpil balalalika Tumbalalalika, freylekh zol zayn	Young girl, I've got a question: What can grow without rain? What can burn forever? What can weep without tears? Silly ladi! What are these questions? Stones can grow without rain! Love can burn forever! The heart can weep without tears!
Shoyt a bokher. Sheyt un trakht. Trakht un trakht a gantse nakht. Vemen zu nemen un nit farshe-men. Tumbalalalika, shpil balalalika Tumbalalalika, freylekh zol zayn	Young girl, I've got a question: What can grow without rain? What can burn forever? What can weep without tears? Silly ladi! What are these questions? Stones can grow without rain! Love can burn forever! The heart can weep without tears!

It is, quite simply, a riddle:
Tumbalalyka is one of the most performed and beloved Yiddish folksongs.

for mixed chorus *a cappella*

TUMBALALAYKA

Michael Kaulkin