

Nakhshoon Gakavig (Colorful Partridge)

Informant/Performer:
Siranoosh Shapazian
from Armenia
Fowler, CA, 1939

Source:
Library of Congress AFS 4266 A2
Collected by Sidney Robertson Cowell

$\text{♩} = 66$



1. A - rev pats - vets tukh am - be - ren, ga - kav te - rav ga - nanch_ sa - ren.
Ga - nanch sa - ren sa - ri dze - ren pa - rev pe - rav dza - ghik - ne - ren.

Refrain:



Si - ru - nig, si - ru - nig nakh - shoon - (a) ga - ka - vig,
Si - ru - nig, si - ru - nig nakh - shoon - (a) ga - ka - vig.

Armenian Text

1. Arev patsvets tukh amberen,
gakav terav gananch saren.
Gananch saren sari dzeren
Parev perav dzaghikneren.

Refrain: Sirunig, sirunig, nakhshoon gakavig. (2x)

2. Ko puyh huhtsvats dzaghigeroov
Shushan, narkiz, nunufarov
Ko degh letsvadz tsogh u shoghov
Kuhnes gyelnes yerik u daghov.

Refrain

English Translation

1. The sun rose out of the dark clouds,
the partridge flew out from the green mountains.
From the green mountains, from the source of the mountains,
She brought greetings from the flowers.

Refrain: Sweet, sweet, colorful partridge! (2x)

2. You weave your nest with flowers:
Lilies, daffodils, and daisies,
Fresh and glistening with dewdrops;
You sing yourself to sleep and awake with a song.

Refrain

Background Information

The Song of the Partridge is better known in the version composed by the great Armenian composer and ethnomusicologist Komitas Vardapet, who wrote his own music to the traditional text. Mrs. Shapazian sings what appears to be the original folk song, learned in Western Armenia prior to the Armenian genocide which destroyed the Armenian population of her home town of Harpoot, as documented in *Days of Tragedy in Armenia: Personal Experience in Harpoot, 1915-1917*, by the American missionary Henry H. Riggs.

Informant Information

Siranoosh [Topoozian] Shapazian, born 1889 in Harpoot (Harpout, Kharpert), traditionally considered Western Armenia (near present-day Elazig, Turkey). With her husband Vartan Sarkis Shapazian she arrived in Halifax, N.S., from Liverpool and lived briefly in Montreal before entering the U.S. in 1907.