

Gevn a zayt mayn fraynt

Those were the days

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff starts with a Dm chord and ends with a Gm chord. The second staff starts at measure 5 with Dm, E, and A chords. The third staff starts at measure 10 with Dm, Gm, C, C7, and F chords. The fourth staff starts at measure 17 with Gm, Dm, A, and Dm chords. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

version 1

Vi oft mir flegn trefn zikh in shenkl,
Mir zenen yung un narish dan geven;
Gedeynsktu vi mir flegn dort farbreyngen,
Troymen vos iz keyn mol nit geshen.

Geven a tsayt, mayn fraynd,
Ay, vi es benkt zikh haynt,
Mir flegn hulyn, lakhn gantse nekht.
dan hobn fis geshprungen,
Un dos harts gezungen, ay, a tsayt,
Mayn fraynd, geven a tsayt.
Day, day....

Dos lebn geyt nit imer vi gevuntshn,
Mir hobn zikh tseheydt af yorn lang,
Un nokh dem ven mir hobn zikh getrofn,
Demont in yene tsaytn mit gezang.
Geven a tsayt...

Kh'bin haynt banakht geshtanen farn shenkl,
Getrakht, "Ay ven ikh volt gekent zayn dayns,"
Geshpiglt zikh in fenster un gefregt im,
"Iz dos modne ponem take mayns?"
Geven a tsayt...

Plutslung zenen tirn zikh tsefloygn,
Ikh hob gehert mayn nomen vi a mol,
Mir zenen itster elter nor nit kliger,
Mit troymen vi in yungt, on a tsol.
Geven a tsayt...

Version 2

Az ikh bin geven nokh a kleyn yingl
Hob ikh nisht gevust farvos leb ikh
Ikh hob do geshpilt bay mayn mame
Un tomid hot gedreyt der seyger zikh

refrain

Di yorn geyn avek, geyn asoy shnel avek
Ikh veys a tsvek git oyf mayn lebn mir
Un ikh vil freylekh sayn, ikh vil fol
simkhe sayn
Un ikh bin gliklekh as du bist bay mir

Hob gehat fil simkhes un fil tsures
ikh veys es gib oykh dales oyf der velt
Nor ver kukt in sikh den hot dermon akh
Verd in oylem seyn vos im gefelt

As ikh nem mayn fidl, sing a lidl
vays ikh as mayn kol is bay dir
As der seyger hot gedreyt a zakh doyles
Nu vern a kheyrim singn dem altn shir

These lyrics were found on the WWW - a sheynen dank to all concerned

Version 1 follows the original English version

Version 2 tells it's own tale!