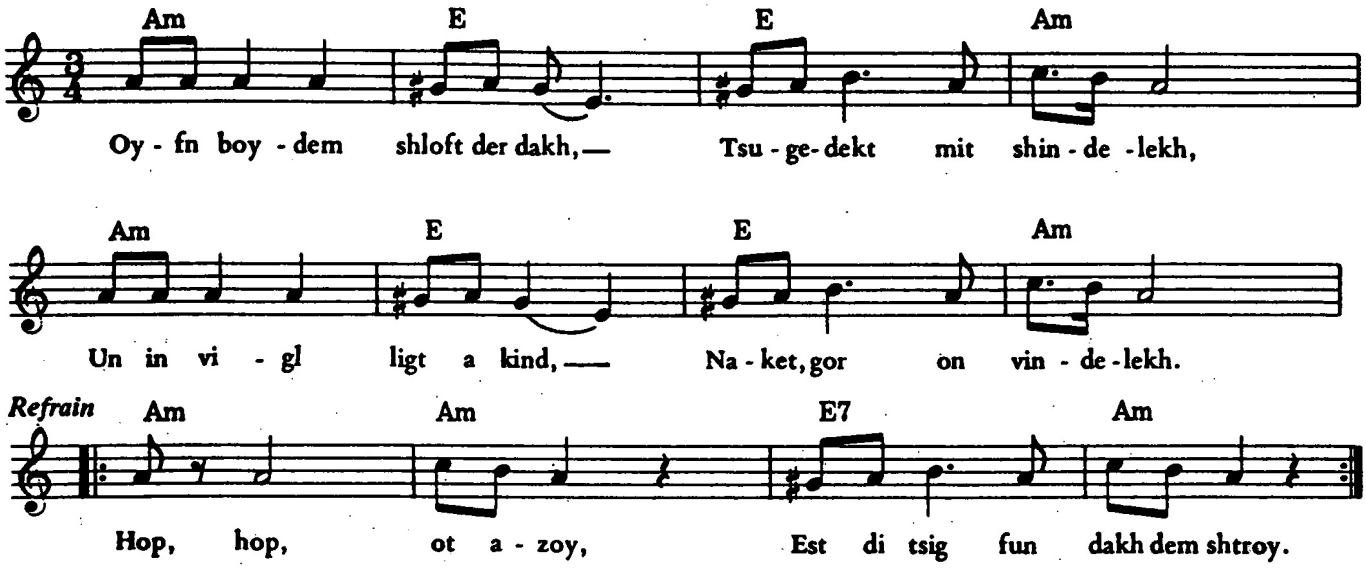
Oyfn boydem shloft der dakh Above The Attic The Roof is Asleep

A surrealistic song of a family's poverty. Words ‘by Berl Shafir (1876-1922); music by Peretz Hirshbein (1880-1948). Words and music published in 1918 by M. Kipnis.The song appeared in a slightly varied form In Shafir’s play Avremi der shuster (Abraham the Shoemaker), published in 1910 with additional stanzas.

Above the attic, the roof is asleep,
covered with shingles;
And in the cradle lies a child
naked, without any diapers.

Hop, hop just like that.
a goat eats straw from the roof.

In the attic there stands a cradle,
a spider rocks in it;
It saps the life from me
and leaves me my poverty.

A rooster stands on the roof
and its comb is fiery red.
May my wife borrow
a piece of bread for the children
somewhere.

Oyfn boydem shloft der dakh,
Tsugedekt mit shindelekh;
Un in vigl ligt a kind,
Naket, gor on vindelekh.

Refrain:
Hop, hop — ot azoy,
Est di tsig fun dakh dem shtroy.

Oyfn boydem shteyt a vig,
Vigt zikh dort a shpin in ir;
Tsit er fun mir dos khayes oys
Un dem dales lozt er mir.

Oyfn boydem shteyt a hon
Un zayn kam iz fayer-royt;
Zol mayn vayb ergets borgn
Far di kinder a shtikl broyt.

אויפֿן בוידעם שלאָפֿט דער דאַך,
צוגעדעקט מיט שינדעלעך;
און אין וויגל ליגט אַ קינד,
נאַקעט גאָר אָן ווינדעלער.

רעפֿריין:
האָפּ, האָפּ, אָט אַזוי,
עסט די ציג פֿון דאַך דעם שטרוי.

אויפֿן בוידעם שטייט אַ וויג,
וויגט זיך דאָרט אַ שפּין אין איר;
ציט ער פֿון מיר דאָס חיות אויס
און דעם דלות לאָזט ער מיר.

אויפֿן בוידעם שטייט אַ האָן
און זײַן קאַם איז פֿײַער־רויט;
זאָל מײַן ווײַב ערגעץ באָרגן
פֿאַר די קינדער אַ שטיקל ברויט.

A surrealistic song of a family's poverty. Words ‘by Berl Shafir (1876-1922); music by Peretz Hirshbein (1880-1948). Words and music published in 1918 by M. Kipnis. This Is one of the cycle. Of 11 Yiddish songs translated into Russian that were set to music in 1948 by Dmitri Shostakovich in From Jewish Folk Poetry, Opus 79. The song appeared in a slightly varied form In Shafir’s play Avremi der Shuster (Abraham the Shoemaker), published in 1910 with additional stanzas.
In the Soviet Union, the song was used to contrast the old, “mouldy” world with the new Soviet youth; “Oyfn boydem hengt der dakh,/ Tsugedekt mit shindelekh./ Shteyen yatn oyf der vakh,/ Frayheyts traye kinderlekh./ Alte shtetl rut zikh oys,/ Foylinke parshoyndelekh./ Yugnt geyt in gas aroys,/ Oysglaykhn di beyndelekh./ Shimit himi, alter skhakh,/ Altinke getseltelekh,/ Yugnt tsindn vet dem dakh,/ Brenen vein veltelekh.” (Above the attic hangs the shingled roof; young men stand guard — freedom’s devoted children. The old town rests — lazy little people. Youth goes out to stretch their limbs. Mouldy sky, wilted roof, little old huts. Youth will put a torch to the roof and old worlds will burn.)