

## **Dzūkit, dzūkit girnelės** **The Millstone is Humming**

*Lithuanian folk song from the Dzūkija region*  
*Variations by Danguolė Beinarytė*

“Marriage puts its imprint on a young woman’s destiny. It tears her away from her home environment and impoverishes her spirit. A bride takes her dowry with her, but can linens replace her parents, brothers, and sisters? She would like to continue to stay with her family. Her brothers shouldn’t want to get rid of her. Her dowry chest and she herself take up so little space in the home.” (A. Maceina)

The song begins with the millstone grinding grain. The long and monotonous work of milling grain immediately directs her attention to her tired hands, tired feet, and tired eyes powdered with flour dust. By describing her tired body, she seeks consolation and reflects on her difficult and exhausting life. The tired body hides a tired soul, and feelings of longing and loneliness.

“The humming sound of the millstone makes the young woman feel that she is not alone. For a brief moment her attention is drawn to her work. However, reality intrudes and she feels her deep loneliness. This consciousness forces her to think of her fate. Why did the young man of her dreams come to love her? Her destiny is not to be idle. Her days are full of troubles and misery. The song’s focus on one’s inner world is quite clear. The action of milling is merely a vehicle used to portray the inner feelings and experiences of a working person.” (A. Maceina)