

Polina's aria (*Tchaikovsky The Queen of Spades*)

The text used by Tchaikovsky for this aria is a poem by Batjushkov titled 'An epitaph on the gravestone of a young shepherdess' first published in 1810 with the following annotation: 'this gravestone was found in the field where danced young shepherds and shepherdesses'. This poem, in its own turn, was influenced by Nicolas Poussin's painting 'The Shepherds of Arcadia' (1620s).



Да, вспомнила!

[da, fspóm-ni-la]

Yes, I remember now!

Russian

Transliteration

Word-to-word translation

Stressed vowel

Подруги милые! в беспечности игривой

[pad-rú-gi meé-ly-je, fbes-pé-chnas-ti ig-reé-va]

Dear girl-friends! In your carefree playfulness

Под плясовой напев вы резвитесь в лугах.

[pat pl'e-sa-vój na-péf vy ré-zvi-tes' vlu-gákh]

To a joyful tune you are playing in the fields

И я, как вы, жила в Аркадии счастливой;

[ee ya kak vy zhi-lá var-ká-diee schas-leé-va]

And just like you I lived in happy Arcady

И я, на утре дней, в сих рощах и полях

[ee ya, na út-ri dneĵ, fsikh ró-schakh ee pa-ljákh]

I too, in the morning of my days, in these groves and fields

Минутны радости вкусила:

[mi-nút-ny rá-das-ti fku-seé-la]

Tasted the short-lived joys

Любовь в мечтах златых

[l'ʉ-bóf vmech-tákh zla-týkh]

Love in my golden dreams

Мне счастье сулила;

[mnje schás-ti-ye su-leé-la]

Promised nothing but happiness

Но что ж досталось мне в сих радостных местах?

[no shtósh das-tá-las' mnje fsikh rá-das-nykh mes-tákh]

But what is it I found in these places of joy?

Могилá!

[ma-geé-la]

A grave!