

# Tumbalaika

- TRADITIONAL - YIDDISH

- NEW VERSES - DARIA A. MARMALUK-HAJIOANNOU

*This song is in Yiddish and tells the tale of a young man who wanted to outsmart a girl he loved with riddles. The girl was so clever — she knew all the answers! The original is all in Yiddish and tells the actual riddles, I've added new verses in English to tell the story.*

Chorus:

Tumbala, tumbala, tumbalalaika,  
Tumbala, tumbala, tumbalalaika  
tumbalalaika, shpiel balalaika  
tumbalalaika - freylach zol zayn.

Shteyt a bocher, shteyt un tracht,  
tracht un tracht a gantze nacht.  
Vemen tsu nemen un nit far shemen,  
vemen tsu nemen un nit far shemen

Hear my tale of a certain young man  
Stayed up all night til he thought up a plan  
Wanted a girl who would be his delight  
One who was pretty, witty and bright

The girl was pretty – and clever, you see  
Answered his questions, one, two and three  
Answered his questions, then asked him one more...  
"Sir, will you dance out on the dance floor?"



**tumbalaika**