

**CD 1**
**1 Uvertyra**
**DEYSTVIYE PERVOYE**
**No. 1 Introduktsiya**

*Teatr predstavlyayet roskoshnyuyu velikoknyazheskuyu gridnitsu v Kiyeye. Svadebniy pir. Za stolom sidit Svetozar, po obeim storonam yevo — Ruslan i Lyudmila, po bokam stola — Ratmir i Farlaf. Gosti i muzikanti. Vpered i vsekh, na avantsene, Bayan s lezhashchimi pered nim na stolike guslyami.*

**2 Bayan, Khor**

Dela davno minuvshikh dney,  
predanya starini glubokoy!

**Khor**

Poslushaem yevo rechey!  
Zaviden dar pevtsa visokiy:  
vse tayni neba i lyudey  
providit vzor yevo dal'yokiy.

**Bayan**

*(udaryaya po strunam)*  
Pro slavu rusfskiya zemli  
bryatsayte, struni zolotiye,  
kak nashi dedi udaliye  
na Tsargrad voynoyu shli.

**Khor**

Da snidyot mir na ikh mogili!  
Vospoy nam, sladostniy pevets,  
Ruslana i krasu Lyudmili  
I Lelem svitiy im venets.

**Bayan**

Za blagom vsled idut pechali,  
pechal zhe — radosti zalog.  
Prirodu vmeste sozidali  
Belbog i mrachniy Chernobog.  
Odenetsya s zaryoyu  
roskoshnoyu krasoyu  
tsvetok lyubvi, vesni,  
i vdrug porivom buri  
pod samiy svod lazuri  
listki razneseni.  
Zhenikh vosplamenyonniy  
v priyut uyedinyonniy  
na zov lyubvi speshit,  
a rok yemu navstrechu

**CD 1**
**Overture**
**ACT ONE**
**No.1 Introduction**

*A sumptuous grand-ducal audience hall in Kiev. Wedding feast. At the table sits Svetozar, and on either side of him Ruslan and Lyudmila. At the sides of the table sit Ratmir and Farlaf. Guests and musicians. Upstage of everyone is Bayan with his gusli on a small table in front of him.*

**Bayan, Chorus**

These are deeds of long ago,  
legends of hoary old age!

**Chorus**

We listen to his words!  
The sublime gift of the singer is to be envied:  
his distant gaze foresees  
all secrets of the skies and of people.

**Bayan**

*(plucking the strings)*  
To the glory of the Russian lands  
resound forth, you golden strings,  
as our bold forefathers  
went forth to do battle against Constantinople.

**Chorus**

May peace descend upon their graves!  
O honey-toned singer, sing for us  
the praises of Ruslan and fair Lyudmila and  
of the wedding crown which Lel has woven for  
them.

**Bayan**

After blessings sorrows ensue,  
but sorrow is the pledge of happiness;  
Belbog and gloomy Chernobog  
together created nature.  
The flower of love and springtime  
will be resplendent at dawn  
with a magnificent beauty;  
but suddenly with the gust of a storm  
beneath the very azure of the celestial vault  
the leaves are all scattered.  
The ardent bridegroom hastens  
to the secluded refuge  
in answer to love's call,  
but fate, coming to meet him,

gotovit zlyuyu sechu  
i gibelyu grozit.

**Farlaf**

!Chto slishu ya?  
!Uzhel zlodey padyot ot ruki moyey?  
!Zlodey pogibnet ot ruki moyey!

**Ratmir**

!Ponyaten tayniy smisl' rechey:  
!pogibnet skoro moy zlodey!

**Svetozar**

!Uzheli v pamyati tvoey  
!net brachnikh pesen veseley?

**Ruslan**

O, ver lyubvi moyey, Lyudmila,  
nas grozniy rok ne razluchit!

**Lyudmila**

Ruslan, verna tvoya Lyudmila!  
No tayniy vrag menya strashit!

**Bayan**

Mchitsya groza,  
no nezrimaya sila  
vernikh lyubvi zashchitit.  
Velik Perun moguchiy!  
!scheznut v nebe tuchi,  
!i solntse vnov' vzoydyot!

**Ruslan**

!Groza nebes tomu, Lyudmila,  
!kto drugu serdtsa ne khranit!

**Lyudmila**

!Nebes nevidimaya sila  
!nam budet verniy shchit!

**Bayan**

I radosti primeta,  
ditya dozhdy a sveta,  
vnov raduga vzoydyot.

**Khor**

Mir i blazhenstvo, cheta molodaya!  
Lel vas krilom osenit!  
Strashnaya burya, pod nebom letaya,  
vernikh lyubvi poshchadit.

prepares for him a evil contest  
and threatens him with destruction.

**Farlaf**

What do I hear?  
Can it be that the villain will fall beneath my  
sword?  
Shall the villain perish by my hand?

**Ratmir**

The secret meaning of his words is clear:  
my rival shall soon perish!

**Svetozar**

Can it be that in your memory  
there are no wedding songs more cheerful than  
this?

**Ruslan**

Oh, have faith in my love, Lyudmila,  
the dread fate shall not part us!

**Lyudmila**

Ruslan, your Lyudmila is true to you,  
but the mysterious enemy frightens me!

**Bayan**

The storm scurries,  
but an unseen power  
shall protect those true to love.  
Mighty Perun is great,  
the storm clouds shall vanish from the skies,  
and the sun shall appear once more!

**Ruslan**

The storm of the heavens, Lyudmila, will fall  
on those who do not remain true to their  
beloved!

**Lyudmila**

The unseen power of the heavens  
shall be our faithful shield!

**Bayan**

But the rainbow, that token of joy,  
the child of rain and light,  
shall appear again!

**Chorus**

Peace and bliss to the young couple!  
Lel will cover you with his wing!  
The awesome storm flying beneath the heavens  
shall spare those true to love.

### **Ratmir**

*(chashnikam)*

Leyte polneye kubok zlatoy...  
Vsem nam napisan chas rokoyoy!

### **Farfaf**

Veshchie pesni ne dlya menya:  
pesni ne strashni khrabrim kak ya!

### **Svetozar**

Leyte polneye kubok gostyam!  
Slava Perunu, zdraviye nam!

### **Khor**

Svetlomu knyazyu i zdavye, i slava,  
v bitve i mire venets!  
V sile tvoya protsvetayet derzhava,  
Rusi velikiy otets!

### **Bayan**

- 3 Yest pustinniy kray,  
bezotradniy breg,  
tam na polnochi daleko.  
Solntse letneye na dolini tam  
skvoz tuman glyadit bez luchey.  
No veka proydut, i na bedniy kray  
dolya divnaya nizoydyot.  
Tam mladoy pevets,  
v slavu rodini,  
na zlatikh strunakh zapoyot,  
i Lyudmilu nam s yeyo vityazem  
ot zabveniya sokhranit.  
No nedolog srok na zemle pevtsu,  
no nedolog srok na zemle.  
Vse bessmertniye v nebesakh.

### **Khor**

Svetlomu knyazyu i zdavye, i slava,  
v bitve i mire venets!  
V sile tvoya protsvetayet derzhava,  
Rusi velikiy otets!  
S suprugoyu miloy da zdravstvuyet knyaz  
molodoy.  
Pust Lel legkokriily khranit ikh  
blazhenniy pokoy!  
Pust Did im daruyet besstrashnikh moguchikh  
sinov!  
Pust dolgo charuyet ikh v zhizni svyatya  
lyubov!

### **Ratmir**

*(to the cup-bearers)*

Let the golden goblet be filled to the brim!  
For each of us the fateful hour is ordained!

### **Farfaf**

Prophetic songs are not for me;  
songs do not frighten courageous men like me!

### **Svetozar**

Let the goblets be filled to the brim for the  
guests!  
Glory to Perun, and good health to us!

### **Chorus**

Health and glory to the radiant prince,  
may he be crowned with success in battle and  
in peace!  
May your power flourish mightily,  
great father of all Rus!

### **Bayan**

There is a deserted land,  
a joyless shore,  
there, far off in the north.  
The summer sun gazes down  
on the valleys there without rays.  
But the centuries shall pass  
and a wondrous fate  
shall befall that barren spot.  
There, a young singer shall start to sing  
upon his golden strings in honour of his country.  
And he shall save our Lyudmila and her knight  
from oblivion.  
The singer has but few years upon this earth,  
few years upon this earth.  
All those who gain immortality are in the  
heavens.

### **Chorus**

Health and glory to the radiant prince,  
may he be crowned with success in battle and  
in peace!  
May your power flourish mightily,  
great father of all Rus!  
Long life to the young prince  
and his dear bride!  
Let the light-winged Lel preserve  
their blissful repose!  
Let Did grant them fearless,  
mighty sons!  
May sacred love enchant their lives for many  
years!

Trubi zvuchneye knyazheskiy dom pust oglyasyat!  
 Kubki polneye svetlim vinom pust zakipyat!  
 Radost Lyudmila, kto krasotoy raven s tobroy?  
 Merknut svetila tak pred lunoy nochi poroy.  
 Vityaz moguchiy,  
 vrag pred tobroy v pole bezhit,  
 chyorniy svod tuchi tak pod grozoy  
 v nebe drozhit.

*(Vstayut iz-za stola.)*

Likuyte, gosti udal'nye,  
 da veselitsya knyazya dom!  
 Napente kubki zolotiye  
 shipuchim myodom i vinom!  
 Da zdravstvuyet cheta mladaya,  
 krasa Lyudmila i Ruslan!  
 Khrani ikh, blagost nezemnaya,  
 na radost vernikh kiyevlyan!

## No. 2 Kavatina Lyudmili

### Lyudmila

- 4 Grustno mne, roditel dorogoy!  
 Kak vo sne melknuli dni s tobroy!  
 Kak spoyu: oy Lado! Did Lado!  
 Razgoni tosku moyu, radost Lado!  
 S milim serdtsu  
 chuzhdiy kray budet ray;  
 v teremu moyom visokom, kak i zdes poroy,  
 zapoyu, roditel dorogoy,  
 zapoyu: oy Lado!  
 — pro lyubov moyu, o Dnepre rodnom,  
 o Dnepre rodnom-shirokom,  
 nashem Kiyeve dalyokom.

### Khor

Ne tuzhi, ditya rodimoye,  
 budto vsey zemnoy-to radosti  
 bezzabotno pesney teshitsya  
 za kosyashchatim okoshechkom!  
 Ne lebyodka belosnezhnaya  
 po volnam Dnepra shirokovo  
 otplivayet na chuzhbinushku,  
 pokidayet nas krasavitsa,  
 nashikh teremov sokrovishche,  
 gordost Kiyeva rodimovo.  
 Ne tuzhi, dityatko,  
 budesh zhit radostno.  
 Oy, Dido Lado! Dido lado Le!

Let the trumpets resound more brightly in the  
 prince's house.  
 Let the goblets be brimming with sparkling,  
 light-coloured wine!  
 Darling Lyudmila, who is equal to you in beauty?  
 Just as the stars grow dim in the moonlight at  
 night.  
 Mighty knight,  
 your enemy is before you, he is deserting the  
 field;  
 the black vault of thunder clouds trembles  
 in the sky as before a storm.  
*(Everyone gets up from the table.)*  
 Rejoice, bold guests,  
 and let the prince's house be merry!  
 Let the golden goblets foam  
 with sparkling mead and wine!  
 Long life to the young couple,  
 the fair Lyudmila and Ruslan!  
 Preserve them, kindly gods,  
 for the joy of the loyal people of Kiev!

## No.2 Lyudmila's Cavatina

### Lyudmila

I am sad, dear father!  
 The days I spent with you have flashed by like  
 a dream!  
 How I shall sing: oy, Lado! Did-Lado!  
 Disperse my sorrow, darling Lado!  
 With my beloved beside me,  
 even a foreign land will be a paradise;  
 in my lofty chamber,  
 as here, sometimes, dear father,  
 I shall sing: oy, Lado!  
 About my love, about our own Dnieper,  
 about our own broad Dnieper,  
 about our distant Kiev!

### Chorus

Don't grieve, sweet child.  
 As if all earthly joys just meant  
 amusing yourself lightheartedly  
 with singing behind the window jamb!  
 It is not a snow-white swan  
 on the waves of the broad Dnieper,  
 swimming away to foreign lands.  
 It is a fair maiden who is leaving us,  
 the treasure of our palace chambers,  
 the pride of our native Kiev,  
 do not grieve, child,  
 you will live happily.  
 Oy, dido lado! Dido lado Le!

### Lyudmila

*(obrashchayas shutlivo k Farlafu)*

Ne gnevis, znatniy gost,  
 chto v lyubvi prikhotlivoy  
 ya drugomu nesu serdtsa perviy privet!  
 Prinuzhdyonnoy lyubvi  
 kto v dushe spravedlivoy  
 khladniy primet obet!  
 Khrabriy vityaz Farlaf,  
 pod zvezdoyu schastlivoy  
 dlya lyubvi ti yavilsya na svet.

### Khor

Nezhnost podrugy nam krasit svet;  
 a bez vzaimnosti schastyia net.

### Lyudmila

*(obrashchayas k Ratmiru)*

Pod roskoshnim neбом yuga  
 siroteyey tvoy garem.  
 Vozvratil, tvoya podrugа  
 s laskoy snimet branniй shlem.  
 Mech ukroyet pod tsvetami,  
 pesnyu slukh tvoy usladit  
 i s ulibkoy, i s slezami  
 za zabvenye prostit.  
 Nedovolni oni!  
 Vinovata li ya,  
 chto moy miliy Ruslan  
 vsekh miley dlya menyа,  
 chto yemu lish nesu serdtsa perviy privet,  
 schastyia verniy obet?  
 O, moy miliy Ruslan!  
 Ya naveki tvoya,  
 ti vsekh v svete miley dlya menyа!

### Khor

Svetlyй Lel, bud vechno s neyu,  
 day ey schastyia polni dni!

### Lyudmila

Svetlyй Lel, bud vechno s nami,  
 day nam schastyia polni dni!  
 Izumrudnimi krilami  
 nashu dolyu oseni!

### Khor

Silnoy voleyu tvoeyu ot pechaley okhrani!  
 Svetlyй Lel, bud vechno s neyu...

### Lyudmila

Svetlyй Lel, bud vechno s nami...

### Lyudmila

*(turning jestingly towards Farlaf)*

Do not be angry, distinguished guest,  
 that in the caprices of love  
 I bear the first greeting of my heart to another!  
 Which person with a righteous heart would  
 make  
 a cold-blooded vow to love  
 against their wishes?  
 Brave knight Farlaf,  
 you were born on this earth  
 under a happy star for love.

### Chorus

The tenderness of his beloved colours the light  
 for us,  
 but there is no happiness without reciprocation!

### Lyudmila

*(to Ratmir)*

Beneath the luxurious skies of the south  
 your harem is abandoned without you.  
 Return there; with embraces your beloved  
 will remove your warrior's helmet.  
 She will cover up your sword with flowers,  
 and she will delight your ear with a song.  
 With a smile and tears  
 she will beg to lose herself in forgetfulness.  
 Yes, she will beg to be lost in forgetfulness.  
 They are out of sorts!  
 Is it my fault that my darling Ruslan  
 is the most appealing, that I give him  
 the first greeting of my heart,  
 the true vow of happiness?  
 O my dear Ruslan!  
 I am yours for ever,  
 you are more dear to me than anyone!

### Chorus

Radiant Lel, be for ever with her,  
 give her days brimming with happiness!

### Lyudmila

Radiant Lel, be for ever with us,  
 give us days brimming with happiness!  
 Shield our fate  
 with your emerald wings!

### Chorus

By your mighty will preserve her from sorrows!  
 Radiant Lel, be with her always, etc.

### Lyudmila

Radiant Lel, be for ever with us, etc.

### No. 3 Final

#### Svetozar

*(blagoslovyaya)*

- 5 Chada rodimīye!  
 Nebo ustroit vam radost;  
 serdtse roditelya verniy veshchun.

#### Khor

Skroy ot nenastyā,  
 ot charī opasnoy ikh mladost,  
 silniy, derzhavniy,  
 velikiy Perun.

#### Ruslan

Klyanus, otets, mne nebom danniy,  
 vseгда khranit v dushe moyey  
 soyuz lyubvi, toboy zhelanniyy,  
 i schastye docheri tvoyey.

#### Lyudmila

O ti, roditel nezabvenniyy!  
 O, kak pokinut mne tebya  
 i Kiyev nash blagoslovenniyy,  
 gde tak bila schastliva ya!  
 Prosti mne, vityaz miliy,  
 nevolnuyu pechal!

#### Ruslan

I ti, dushi otrada,  
 klyanus lyubov khranit.

#### Khor

Radost im nisposhli!  
 Zhizn lyubvi nisposhli!

#### Ratmir

Breg dalyokiy, breg zhelanniyy,  
 o Khazariya moya!  
 O, kakoy sudboy vrazhdebnoy  
 tvoy priyut pokinul ya!  
 Tam lish slukhom znal ya gore,  
 tam vsyo nega i krasa.  
 O, skorey v rodniye seni,  
 k nezabvennim beregam,  
 k milim devam,  
 k tikhoy leni,  
 k prezhney nege i piram!

#### Lyudmila

Zdes vsem s tvoey Lyudmiloy...  
 navek rasstatsya zhal.  
 No ya tvoya otnine.  
 O ti, moyey dushi kumir!  
 O, ver, Ruslan,

### No.3 Finale

#### Svetozar

*(giving his blessing)*

My own children!  
 The heavens shall give you happiness;  
 a father's heart can tell.

#### Chorus

Powerful, almighty,  
 great Perun,  
 keep their youth safe from storms  
 and from the harmful chalice.

#### Ruslan

I swear to you, father given to me by heaven,  
 always to keep in my soul  
 the union of love which you desire and  
 the happiness of your daughter.

#### Lyudmila

O, my never-to-be-forgotten father!  
 Oh how sad am I to leave you  
 and our blessed Kiev  
 where I was so happy!  
 Forgive me, dear knight,  
 for my involuntary sorrow!

#### Ruslan

And you, joy of my soul,  
 I swear to keep my love.

#### Chorus

Send down to them happiness!  
 Send down to them a life of love!

#### Ratmir

Distant shore, longed-for shore,  
 o my Khazar lands!  
 Oh, by what malevolent fate  
 did I abandon your refuge!  
 I only knew of grief by hearsay,  
 there everything is sweet rapture and beauty.  
 Let me fly quickly to your tender care,  
 to those never-to-be-forgotten shores,  
 to the dear maidens,  
 to calm leisure,  
 to my former rapture and my feasts!

#### Lyudmila

You are all sorry to part for ever  
 with your Lyudmila here.  
 But henceforth I am yours,  
 you, the idol of my soul!  
 Oh believe me, Ruslan,

Lyudmila, dokole zhizn  
v grudi kipit!  
Dokole khladnaya mogila zemlyoy  
mne persi ne stesnit!

### Ruslan

Pust tvoi zhelanya, ulibka, miliy vzglyad,  
vse tayniye mechtanya lish mne prinadlezhat!  
Ya tvoy, moya Lyudmila,  
dokole zhizn vo mne kipit!  
Dokole khladnaya mogila zemlyoy  
mne persi ne stesnit!

### Svetozar

Bozhe, im schastye day!  
Zhizn, lyubvi nisposhli!  
Radost bogi vam, schastye nisposhlyut!

### Farlaf

Torzhestvuyet nado mnoyu nenavistniy  
nedrug moy...  
Net, ne dam tebe bez boyu obladat  
moyey knyazhnoy.  
Ya krasavitsu pokhishchu,  
v tyomnom lese pritayas,  
a tebe vragov naklichu,  
— beysya s nimi, khrabriy knyaz!  
Radost blizko, o Lyudmila!  
Radost grud moyu tesnit!  
Nikakaya v mire sila nash soyuz ne sokrushit!

### Khor

Lel tainstvenniy, upoitelniy,  
ti vostorgi lyosh v serdtse nam.  
Slavim vlast tvoyu i mogushchestvo,  
neizbezhniye na zemle!  
Oy, dido lado Lel! Oy, dido lado Lel!

Ti pechalniy mir prevrashchaeshch nam  
v nebo radostey i utekh.  
V noch glubokuyu, chrez bedi i strakh,  
k lozhu roskoshi nas vedyosh  
i volnuyesh grud sladostriyem,  
i ulibku shlyosh na usta.  
Oy, dido lado Lel! Oy, dido lado Lel!

No chudesniy Lel,  
ti bog revnosti:  
ti vliyayesh v nas mshchenya zhar.  
I prestupnika ti na lozhe neg  
predayosh vragu bez mecha.  
Tak ravnayesh ti skorb i radosti,

Lyudmila is yours for as long as life  
surges in her breast!  
Until the earth of the cold tomb  
crushes her breast!

### Ruslan

Let your wishes, your smile, your dear look,  
all your secret dreams belong to me alone!  
I am yours, my Lyudmila,  
for as long as life surges in me!  
Until the earth of the cold tomb  
crushes my breast!

### Svetozar

O god, give them happiness!  
Send down to them a life of love!  
Let our beloved gods send down happiness to  
you!

### Farlaf

My hated enemy  
is gloating at me...  
No, I shall not let you have my princess  
without a fight.  
I shall abduct the pretty girl,  
hide her in the dark forest,  
and bring your enemies to meet you  
— fight them, courageous prince!  
Happiness is nigh, o Lyudmila!  
I can't breathe for happiness!  
No force in the world shall break our union.

### Chorus

Mysterious Lel, entrancing Lel,  
you pour delight into our hearts.  
We sing the praises of your power and might  
which are inescapable on earth!  
Oy, dido lado Lel! Oy, dido lado Lel!

You turn this sorrowful world  
into a paradise of joys and comfort for us.  
In the depths of night, through misfortunes and  
fear,  
you lead us to the couch of luxury  
and you agitate our breasts with  
voluptuousness,  
and you send off a smile on your lips.  
Oy, dido lado Lel! Oy, dido lado Lel!

But wondrous Lel,  
you are the god of jealousy:  
you pour the fire of vengeance into us.  
And on the couch of sweet raptures you deliver  
the violator to his enemy without a sword.  
Thus you equal pain with joy

chtobi neba nam ne zabít.  
Dido lado Lel!

Vsyo velikoye, vsyo prestupnoye  
smertniy vedayet chrez tebya;  
tí za rodinu v bitvu strashnuyu  
kak na svetliy pir nas vedyosh;  
utselevshemu tí venki kladyosh  
lavra vechnovu na glavu.  
A kto pal v boyu za otechestvo,  
triznoy slavnoyu usladish!  
Lel tainstvenniy, upoitelniy,  
tí vostorgi lyosh v serdtse nam!

*(Kratkiy, no silniy udar groma. Stsena pomrachayetsya.)*

6 Chto sluchilos?

*(Kratkiy, no silniy udar groma. Stsena yeshchyo boleye pomrachayetsya.)*

Gnev Peruna?

*(Silniy i prodolzhitelniy udar groma. Stsena v sovershennom mrake. Poyavlyayutsya dva chudovishcha i unosyat Lyudmilu; grom postepenno utikhayet. Vse prisutstvuyushchiye porazheni, v otsepenenii.)*

### Canon

#### Ruslan, Ratmir, Farlaf, Svetozar

Kakoye chudnoye mgnovenye!  
Chto znachit etot divniy son?  
I eto chuvstv otsepenenye?  
I mrak tainstvenniy krugom?

#### Khor

Chto s nami?  
No tikho vsyo pod nebesami,  
kak prezhde mesyats svetit nam,  
i Dnepr trevozhnimi volnami  
ne byotsya k sonnim beregam.

*(Mrak mgnovenno ischezayet. Svet poprezhnemu. Vse v dvizhenii.)*

#### Ruslan

Gde Lyudmila?

#### Khor

Gde yunaya knyazhna?

so that we should not forget the heavens.  
Dido lado Lel!

Everything great, everything criminal  
mortal man knows through you;  
you lead us into fearsome battle for our country  
and you lead us to the shining feast;  
you place wreaths of eternal laurels on the  
heads  
of those who come through unharmed.  
And for those who fall in battle for their  
homeland  
you delight them with a glorious funeral feast!  
Mysterious Lel, entrancing Lel,  
you pour delight into our hearts.

*(A brief but loud clap of thunder. The stage becomes darker.)*

What has happened?

*(A brief but loud clap of thunder. The stage becomes still darker)*

Is it the wrath of Perun?

*(A loud and lengthy clap of thunder. The stage is in total darkness. Two monsters appear and carry off Lyudmila; the thunder gradually recedes. All present are struck motionless.)*

### Canon

#### Ruslan, Ratmir, Farlaf, Svetozar

What a wondrous moment!  
What does this miraculous vision mean?  
And this feeling of numbness?  
And the mysterious darkness all around?

#### Chorus

What has happened to us?  
All is quiet beneath the heavens,  
as before the moon is shining,  
and the Dnieper with its anxious waves  
does not pound the sleepy shores.

*(The light is suddenly restored. Everyone is in turmoil.)*

#### Ruslan

Where is Lyudmila?

#### Chorus

Where is the young princess?



**Ruslan**

Zdes so mnoyu govorila  
s tikhoy nezhnostyu ona.

**Svetozar**

Skoreye, otroki, begite!  
Vse vkhodi v terem osmotrite!  
I knyazhiy dvor, i grad krugom!

**Khor**

Nedarom gryanul nad glavami  
Peruna neizbezhiy grom!

**Ruslan**

O, gore mne!

**Khor**

O, gore nam!

**Svetozar**

O, deti, drugi!  
Ya pomnyu prezhiye zaslugi,  
o, szhaltes nad starikom!

**Khor**

O, bedniy knyaz!

**Svetozar**

Skazhite, kto iz vas soglasen  
skakat za docheryu moyey?

**Khor**

Chto slishim?

**Svetozar**

Chey podvig budet nenaprasen,  
tomu ya dam yeyo v suprugy,  
s poltsarstvom pradedov moikh!

**Khor**

Chto slishim? S poltsarstvom?  
O, kto teper naydyot knyazhnu?

**Svetozar**

Kto zh gotov? Kto? Kto?

**Khor**

Kto? Kto?

**Ratmir**

O, vityazi, skorey vo chisto pole!  
Dorog chas, put dalyok.

**Ruslan**

She was talking to me here  
with quiet tenderness.

**Svetozar**

Hurry, my lads, run!  
Keep a watch on all the entrances to her chamber!  
And the prince's courtyard, and the town  
around it!

**Chorus**

It was not for nothing that the inescapable  
thunder of  
Perun resounded above our heads!

**Ruslan**

Oh woe is me!

**Chorus**

Oh woe is us!

**Svetozar**

O children, my friends!  
I remember your past services.  
Oh take pity on an old man!

**Chorus**

Oh the poor prince!

**Svetozar**

Tell me, which of you will agree  
to ride in pursuit of my daughter?

**Chorus**

What do we hear?

**Svetozar**

Whoever accomplishes this feat  
to him I shall give her hand  
together with half the kingdom of my  
ancestors!

**Chorus**

What do we hear? With half his kingdom?  
Oh who will find the princess now?

**Svetozar**

Who is prepared? Who? Who?

**Chorus**

Who? Who?

**Ratmir**

O knights, let us hasten into the open field!  
Time is precious and our journey is far.

Borzij kon menya pomchit po vole,  
kak v stepi veterok.

Chutok kon:

na put mne neizvestniy  
bez udil poletit.

**Khor**

Chutkiy kon  
na put bezvestniy  
bez udil poletit.

**Ruslan, Ratmir, Farlaf, Svetozar**

Verniy mech,  
kak talisman chudesniy,  
kov vraga sokrushit!

**Khor**

Verniy mech kov vraga sokrushit!

**Ruslan, Ratmir, Farlaf, Svetozar**

Verniy mech,  
kak talisman chudesniy,  
kov vraga sokrushit!  
O, vityazi, skorey vo chisto pole!...

**Ratmir, Khor**

Chutok kon:  
na put bezvestniy  
bez udil poletit!

**Ruslan, Ratmir, Farlaf, Svetozar, Khor**

Verniy mech, kak talisman chudesniy...

**Khor**

Otets Perun, ti ikh khрани,  
khрани v puti,  
i kov vraga ti sokrushit!

**Ratmir, Ruslan, Farlaf, Svetozar, Khor**

O, vityazi, skorey vo chisto pole!  
Dorog chas, put dalyok.  
Nas, Perun, khрани v puti,  
i kov vraga ti sokrushit!

My mettlesome horse will carry me  
as freely as the wind on the steppes.  
He has a keen sense:  
on roads I do not know  
he will fly without the bit to guide him.

**Chorus**

His horse has a keen sense,  
and on an unknown road  
he will fly without the bit to guide him.

**Ruslan, Ratmir, Farlaf, Svetozar**

A true sword,  
like a wondrous talisman,  
will shatter the machinations of the enemy!

**Chorus**

A true sword will shatter them!

**Ruslan, Ratmir, Farlaf, Svetozar**

A true sword,  
like a wondrous talisman,  
will shatter the machinations of the enemy!  
O knights, let us hasten into the open field! *etc.*

**Ratmir, Chorus**

The horse has a keen sense,  
and on an unknown road  
he will fly without the bit to guide him.

**Ruslan, Ratmir, Farlaf, Svetozar, Chorus**

A true sword, like a wondrous talisman, *etc.*

**Chorus**

Father Perun, keep them safe,  
keep them safe on their journey,  
and shatter the machinations of their enemies!

**Ratmir, Ruslan, Farlaf, Svetozar, Chorus**

O knights, hasten into the open field!  
Time is precious, and the journey is distant.  
Keep us safe, o Perun, on our journey,  
and shatter the machinations of our enemies!

## DEYSTVIYE VTOROYE

*Teatr predstavlyayet peshcheru Finna*

### 7 No. 4 Antrakt

*(Vkhodit Ruslan.)*

### No. 5 Ballada Finna

#### Finn

- 8 Dobro pozhalovat, moy sin!  
Ya, nakonets, dozhdalsya dnya,  
davno predvidennovo mnoyu!  
Mi vmeste svedeni sudboyu.  
Uznay, Ruslan: tvoy oskorbitel —  
volshebnik strashniy Chernomor.  
Yeshchyo nichey v yevo obitel  
ne pronikal donine vzor.  
V neyo ti vstupish, i zlodey  
padyot ot ruki tvoyey.

#### Ruslan

Prosti mne derzostniy vopros:  
otkroysya, kto ti, blagodatniy,  
sudbi napersnik neponyatniy?  
V pustinyu kto tebya zanyos?

#### Finn

Lyubezniy sin! Uzh ya zabil  
otchizni dalney ugrymiy kray.  
Prirodniy finn,  
v dolinakh nam odnim izvestnikh  
gonyal ya stado syol okrestnikh.  
No zhit v otradnoy tishine  
dano nedolgo bilo mne.  
Togda bliz nashevo selenya  
Naina, tsvet uyedinenya,  
gremela divnoy krasotoy.  
Ya devu vstretil...  
Rokovoy za vzor  
mne plamen bil nagradoy;  
i ya lyubov uznal dushoy,  
s yevo nebesnoy otradoy,  
s yevo muchitelnoy toskoy.

Umchalas goda polovina;  
ya s trepetom otrkilsya yey,  
skazal: "Lyublyu tebya, Naina!"  
No robkoy goresti moyey  
Naina s gordostyu vnimala,  
lish prelesti svoi lyubya,  
i ravnodushno otvechala:  
"Pastukh, ya ne lyublyu tebya."  
I vsyo mne diko, mrachno stalo:

## ACT TWO

*Finn's cave*

### No.4 Entr'acte

*(Ruslan enters.)*

### No.5 Finn's Ballad

#### Finn

Welcome, my son!  
At last, the day I foresaw long ago  
has come!  
We have been brought together by fate.  
Ruslan, learn now that he who has insulted you  
is the fearsome sorcerer Chernomor.  
No gaze has yet  
penetrated his dwelling.  
You will enter there, and the villain  
shall fall by your hand.

#### Ruslan

Forgive me an impertinent question:  
but tell me, who are you, my generous  
and inscrutable confidant of fate?  
Who brought you to this desert?

#### Finn

My dear son! I have already forgotten  
the gloomy land of my distant homeland.  
Born a Finn,  
I used to drive the herds of neighbouring villages  
in valleys known to us alone.  
But I was fated not long to live  
in joyful calm.  
At that time near our village,  
Naina, the flower of my solitude,  
resounded loudly with a wondrous beauty.  
I met the maiden...  
Fateful for my gaze,  
a consuming flame was my reward;  
in the depths of my soul I learned what love is  
with its heavenly joy,  
and with its tormenting anguish.

Six months went by;  
and I with quivering lip told her:  
"Naina, I love you!"  
But with arrogance  
Naina heard my timid sorrows,  
only besotted with her own charms.  
And indifferently she replied:  
"Shepherd, I do not love you."  
I felt wild and gloomy:

rodnaya kushcha, ten dubov,  
vesyoli igri pastukhov —  
nichto toski ne utishalo!  
Ya vizval smelikh ribakov  
iskat opasnostey i zlata.  
Mi desyat let pod zvuk bulata  
bagrilis kroviyu vragov!

Sbilisya pilkiye zhelanya,  
sbilis davnishniye mechti:  
minuta sladkovo svidanya,  
i dlya menya blesnula ti!  
K nogam krasavitsi nadmennoy  
prinyos ya mech okrovavlenniy,  
koralli, zlato i zhemchug.  
Pred neyu, strastyu upoyonniy,  
bezmolvniy rozem okruzhonniy  
yeyo zavistlivikh podrug,  
stoyal ya plennikom poslushnim.  
No deva skrilas ot menya,  
promolvya s vidom ravnodushnim:  
"Geroy, ya ne lyublyu tebya!"  
K chemu rasskazivat, moy sin,  
chevo pereskazat net sil?

Akh, i teper odin,  
odin, dushoy usnuv,  
v dveryakh mogili,  
ya pomnyu gorest, i poroy,  
kak o minuvshem misl roditnya,  
po borode moyey sedoy  
sleza tyazhyolaya katitsya.  
No slushay: v rodine moyey,  
mezhdru pustinnikh ribarey,  
nauka divnaya taitsya.  
Pod krovom vechnoy tishini,  
sredi lesov v glushi dalyokoy,  
zhivut sediye kolduni.  
I serdtse devy ya zhestokoy  
reshilsya charami privlech,  
lyubov volshebstvami zazhech.  
Proshli nevidimiye godi,  
nastal davno zhelanniye mig,  
i svetloy misliyu postig  
ya taynu strashnuyu prirodu.

V mechtakh nadezhd' molodoy,  
v vostorge pilkovo zhelanya  
tvoryu pospeshno zaklinanya,  
zovu dukhov.  
Vo tme nochnoy  
strela promchalas gromovaya,  
volshebniiy vikhor podnyal voy.  
I vdrug sidit peredo mnoy

my own dwelling, the shade of the oaks,  
the merry games of the shepherds —  
nothing could subdue my yearning!  
I incited a few bold fishermen  
to go in search of danger and gold.  
For ten years, to the sound of damask steel,  
we were stained red with the blood of our  
enemies!

Ardent desires came true,  
my old dreams were realised:  
the moment of our sweet meeting  
flashed brightly before me!  
To the feet of the haughty beauty  
I brought my blood-stained sword,  
corals, gold and pearls.  
Before her, intoxicated with passion,  
and surrounded by a silent swarm  
of her envious friends,  
I stood like an obedient captive.  
But the maid hid from me,  
saying with an indifferent expression:  
"Hero, I do not love you!"  
What is the point of telling you, my son,  
that which I have no strength to retell?

Ah, even now I am alone,  
alone; with my soul deadened  
and on the threshold of the grave,  
I recall my misfortunes, and at times  
when a thought about the past appears,  
a heavy tear rolls  
down my grey beard.  
But listen: in my homeland  
amid the fishermen of the wastelands  
a wondrous art is kept secret.  
Under the cover of the eternal silence,  
amid the forests of the distant back quarters  
live grey-haired wizards.  
I decided to win the heart  
of the cruel girl by means of spells,  
and to light the flame of love by sorcery.  
Unseen years went by,  
and the longed-for moment came.  
By means of enlightened thought I understood  
the terrible secret of nature.

In my dreams of young hope,  
in the delight of ardent desire  
I hastily make an incantation  
and summon up the spirits.  
In the nocturnal gloom  
a thunderbolt sped by,  
the magic whirlwind howled.  
And suddenly before me sits

starushka dryakhlaya, sedaya,  
s gorbom, s tryasuchey golovoy,  
pechalnoy vetkhosti kartina...  
Akh, vityaz!.. To bila Naina!  
Ya uzhasnulsya i molchal,  
i vdrug zaplakal, zakrichal:  
"Vozmozhno l? Akh! Naina, ti li?..  
Naina, gde tvoya krasa?  
Skazhi, uzheli nebesa  
tebya tak strashno izmenili?"

Uvi, moy sin! Vsyo koldovstvo  
vpolne svershilos, po neschastyu:  
ko mne pilalo novoy strastyu  
moyo sedoye bozhestvo!  
Ya ubezhal; no gnevom vechno  
s tekh por presleduya menya,  
dushoyu chyornoy zlo lyubya,  
pilaya mshchenyem beskonechno,  
koldunya staraya, konechno,  
voznenavidit i tebya.  
No ti, Ruslan,  
Naini zlobnoy ne strashis!  
S nadezhday, veroyu vesolyoy  
idi na vsyo, ne univay!  
Vperyod, mehom i grudyu smeloy  
svoy put na polnoch probivay!

## No. 6 Duet Finna i Ruslana

### Ruslan

- 9 Blagodaryu tebya, moy divniy pokrovitel!  
Na sever dalniy radostno speshu!  
Ne strashen mne Lyudmila pokhititel!  
Visokiy podvig ya svershu!  
No gore mne!...  
Vsya krov vskipela!  
Lyudmila vo vlasti kolduna...  
I revnost serdtsem ovladela!

### Finn

Spokoysya, vityaz, zlobi sila  
ne pobedit knyazhni tvoyey!

### Ruslan

Gore mne! Volshebnaya sila  
chari gotovit Lyudmila moyey!  
Revnost vskipela!...  
Gde ti, Lyudmila?  
Gde ti, nenavistniy zlodey?

### Finn

Tebe verna tvoya Lyudmila!

a decrepit, grey old woman  
with a humped back and shaking head,  
a picture of sorrowful dilapidation...  
Ah knight, it was Naina!  
I was horrified and fell silent,  
then suddenly I started to weep and to shout:  
"Is it possible? Ah Naina, is that you?  
Naina, where is your beauty?  
Tell me, can it be that the heavens  
have so terribly changed you?"

Alas, my son! Unfortunately my sorcery  
was wholly effective:  
my grey-haired divinity  
was enflamed by a new passion!  
I ran away; but since then,  
pursuing me eternally with her wrath,  
loving evil in her black soul,  
and burning with vengeance without end,  
the old sorceress, of course,  
has become filled with a hatred for you.  
But Ruslan,  
you must not fear malicious Naina!  
With hope and with a joyous faith  
go forth to meet everything, and do not be  
downcast!  
Advance with your sword and with your chest  
forward, forge a path for yourself northwards!

## No.6 Duet of Finn and Ruslan

### Ruslan

I thank you, my wondrous protector!  
I shall hasten joyfully to the distant north  
Lyudmila's abductor does not frighten me!  
I shall accomplish the noble feat!  
But woe is me...  
My blood is boiling!  
Lyudmila is in the power of a sorcerer...  
and jealousy has taken possession of my heart!

### Finn

Be calm, knight, the power of evil  
shall not triumph over your princess!

### Ruslan

Woe is me! A magical power  
is preparing charms for my Lyudmila!  
Jealousy is welling up!...  
Where are you, Lyudmila,  
where is the detested villain?

### Finn

Your Lyudmila is true to you.

**Ruslan**

Verna moya Lyudmila!

**Finn**

Tvoy vrag bessilen pered ney.

**Ruslan**

Chto medlit!.. Na sever dalyokiy!

**Finn**

Tam zhdyot Lyudmila!

Vityaz, prosti! Prosti!

**Ruslan**

Tam zhdyot Lyudmila!

Starets, prosti! Prosti!

*(Finn i Ruslan raskhodyatsya v razniye storoni.)*

*(Peremena dekoratsii: Teatr predstavlyayet pustinnoye mestopolozheniye)*

**No. 7 Stsena i Rondo Farlafa**

**Farlaf**

**10** *(Vbegayet v ispuge)*

Ya ves drozhu, i yesli bi ne rov,  
kuda ya spryatalsya pospeshno,  
ne utselet bi mne!

Chto delat mne? Opasniy put mne nadoyel!  
I stoit li tovo knyazhni umilniy vzor,  
chtob za nevo prostitsya s zhizniyu?  
No kto tam?  
Strashnaya starushka zachem idyot syuda?

**Naina**

Pover, naprasno ti khlopochesh,  
i strakh, i muki perenosish:  
Lyudmilu mudreno siskat!  
Ona dalyoko zabezhalala.  
Stupay domoy i zhdì menya:  
Ruslana pobedit,  
Lyudmiloy ovladet tebe ya pomogu.

**Farlaf**

No kto zhe ti?  
*(v storonu)*  
Ot strakha serdtse zamirayet!  
Starushki zlobnaya ulibka  
mne, verno, gore predveshchayet!  
Otkroysya mne: skazhi, kto ti?

**Naina**

Zachem tebe-to znat?

**Ruslan**

My Lyudmila is true to me.

**Finn**

Your enemy is powerless before her.

**Ruslan**

Why dally! Forward to the distant north!

**Finn**

There your Lyudmila awaits you!

Knight, farewell. Farewell!

**Ruslan**

There awaits your Lyudmila!

Old man, farewell! Farewell!

*(Finn and Ruslan go off in different directions.)*

*(Change of scene: a deserted place.)*

**No.7 Scene and Farlaf's Rondo**

**Farlaf**

*(running in distraught)*

I am all atremble, and if it had not been for the  
ditch  
in which I hid in haste,  
I would no longer be in one piece!  
What am I to do? I am fed up with this  
dangerous journey!  
Is the sweet look of the princess worth  
parting with life for?  
But who is that? It is a fearsome old woman;  
what is she coming this way for?

**Naina**

Believe me, you are putting yourself to a lot of  
trouble in suffering fear and torments, and all for  
nothing: it will be difficult for you to find Lyudmila!  
She is far away.  
Go home and wait for me:  
I shall help you defeat Ruslan  
and win Lyudmila for yourself.

**Farlaf**

But who are you?  
*(aside)*  
I am dying with fear!  
The malicious smile of the old woman  
presages trouble for me for certain!  
Reveal yourself: tell me, who are you?

**Naina**

Why do you need to know?

Ne sprashivay, no slushay.  
Stupay domoy i zhdi menya!  
Ruslana pobedit,  
Lyudmiloy ovladet tebe ya pomogu...

**Farlaf**

*(v storonu)*  
Vot novaya trevoga mne!  
Starushki vzor menya smushchayet,  
ne meneye opasnovo puti...  
O, szhalsya nado mnoy!..  
I yesli ti mozhesh v gore mne pomochi,  
otkroysya, nakonets, skazhi, kto ti?

**Naina**

Itak, uznay: volshebniitsa Naina ya!

**Farlaf**

O uzhas!

**Naina**

*(nasmeshlivo)*  
No ne strashis menya!  
K tebe ya blagosklonna!  
Stupay domoy i zhdi menya:  
Lyudmilu unesyom taykom,  
i Svetozar za podvig tvoy  
otdast tebe yeyo v suprugii.  
Ruslana ya smanyu volshebstvom,  
v sedmoye tsarstvo zavedu:  
pogibnet on bez vesti!  
*(ischezayet)*

**Farlaf**

O, radost!  
Ya znal, ya chuvstvoval zarane,  
chto mne lish suzhdeno  
svershit stol slavniiy podvig!

**Rondo**

- [11] Blizok uzh chas torzhestva moyevo:  
nenavistniy sopernik udyot daleko ot nas!  
Vityaz, naprasno ti ishchesh knyazhnu,  
do neyo ne dopustit volshebniitsi vlast tebya.  
Lyudmila, naprasno ti plachesh i stonesh,  
i milovo serdtsu naprasno ti zhdyosh:  
ni vopli, ni slyozhi — nichto ne pomozhet!  
Smirishsya pred vlastyu Naini, knyazhna!

Blizok uzh chas torzhestva moyevo...

Don't ask, but listen to me.  
Go home and wait for me:  
I shall help you defeat Ruslan  
and win Lyudmila for yourself.

**Farlaf**

*(aside)*  
Here is a new worry for me!  
The old woman's look confounds me,  
it is no less dangerous than the journey...  
Oh, have pity on me!..  
And if you can help me in my grief,  
reveal yourself, and tell me who you are.

**Naina**

Know then that I am the sorceress Naina!

**Farlaf**

Oh horror!

**Naina**

*(mockingly)*  
But don't fear me!  
I am well-disposed to you!  
Go home and wait for me:  
we shall carry off Lyudmila in secret,  
and for your exploit Svetozar  
will give you her hand.  
I shall lure Ruslan by magic!  
And lead him into the seventh kingdom:  
there he shall perish without trace!  
*(disappears)*

**Farlaf**

Oh joy!  
I knew it, I felt before  
that I alone was destined  
to accomplish such a glorious feat!

**Rondo**

The hour of my triumph is at hand:  
my detested rival will be far away from us!  
Knight, it is in vain that you search for the  
princess,  
the power of the sorceress will not allow you to  
reach her.  
Lyudmila, it is in vain that you weep and groan,  
vainly awaiting him who is dear to your heart:  
wailing, tears — nothing will help.  
Princess, you will reconcile yourself to the  
power of the sorceress!

The hour of my triumph, etc.

Ruslan, zabud ti o Lyudmila!  
Lyudmila, zhenikha zabud!  
Pri misli obladat knyazhnoy,  
serdtse radost oshchushchayet i zaraneye  
vkushayet sladost mesti i lyubvi.

Blizok uzh chas torzhestva moyevo...

V zabotakh, v trevoge, dosade i grusti  
skitaysya po svetu, moy khrabriy sopernik!  
Beysya s vragami, vlezay na tverdini!  
Ne trudyas i ne zabotyas,  
ya namereniy dostignu,  
v zamke dedov ozhidaya poveleniya Naini.  
Nedalyok zhelanniy den,  
den vostorga i lyubvi.

Lyudmila, naprasno ti plachesh i stonesh...

Blizok uzh chas torzhestva moyevo...  
(*Farlaf ukhodit.*)

(*Peremena dekoratsii: Teatr predstavlyayet  
pustinyu. Vdali tuman. Vidni razbrosanniye  
ostatki oruzhiya: kopyo, shchit, shlem i mechi.*)

(*Vkhodit Ruslan.*)

## CD 2

### No. 8 Ariya Ruslana

#### Ruslan

- 1 O pole, pole!  
Kto tebya useyal myortvimi kostyami?  
Chey borziy kon tebya toptal  
v posledniy chas krovavoy bitvi?  
Kto na tebe so slavoy pal?  
Chi nebo slishalo molitvi?  
Zachem zhe, pole, smolklo ti  
i poroslo travoy zabvenya?

Vremyon ot vechnoy temnoti,  
bit mozhet, net i mne spasenya!  
Bit mozhet, na kholme nemom  
postavyat tikhyy grob Ruslanov,  
i struni zvonkiye bayanov  
ne budut govorit o nyom!

No dobriy mech i shchit mne nuzhen,  
na trudniy put ya bezoruzhen.

Ruslan, forget about Lyudmila!  
Lyudmila, forget about your intended!  
At the thought of possessing the princess  
my heart feels joy and in advance  
savours the sweetness of revenge and love.

The hour of my triumph, etc.

With your cares, your anguish, annoyance  
and grief  
you rove around the world, my courageous rival!  
Do battle with your enemies, clamber into  
fortresses!  
Without causing myself effort or concern,  
I shall achieve my goal, as I wait the command  
of Naina in the castle of my forefathers.  
The longed-for day is at hand,  
the day of rapture and love.

Lyudmila, it is in vain, etc.

The hour of my triumph, etc.  
(*Exit Farlaf.*)

(*Change of scene: a deserted spot. Mist in the  
distance. Scattered remains of weapons: a  
spear, shield, helmet and swords.*)

(*Enter Ruslan.*)

## CD 2

### No.8 Ruslan's aria

#### Ruslan

- O field, field!  
Who has strewn you with dead bones?  
Whose mettlesome horse has trampled you  
in the final hour of the bloody battle?  
Who with glory has fallen upon you?  
Whose prayers have the heavens heard?  
Why, o field, have you fallen silent  
and become overgrown with the grass of  
oblivion?

Perhaps I shall not escape  
the time of eternal darkness!  
Perhaps, on the silent hill,  
Ruslan's quiet tombstone will be erected,  
and the resounding strings of Bayan's gusli  
will not speak of him!

But I need a trusty sword and shield,  
for on my difficult path I am unarmed.



I pal moy kon, ditya voyni,  
i shchit, i mech razdrobeni!

*(Ruslan vooruzhayetsya kopyom, shchitom i drugimi dospekhami; vooruzhayas, ishchet mech, no vse, popadayushchiyesya yemu v ruki, lyogki, i on brosayet ikh s prenebrezheniyem.)*

2 Day, Perun,  
bulatniy mech mne po ruke,  
bogatiirskiy, zakalyonniy v bitvakh mech,  
v rokovuyu buryu gromom skovanni!  
Chtob vragam v glaza on grozoy blistol,  
chtob ikh uzhas gnal s polya ratnovo!

O, Lyudmila, Lel sulil mne radost.  
Serditse verit, chto proydyot nenastye,  
chto smyagchyonniy rok otdast mne  
i lyubov tvoyu, i laski  
i useyet zhizn moyu tsvetami.  
Net, nedolgo likovat vruga.

Day, Perun, bulatniy mech mne po ruke...

Kak letuchiy prakh ya rasseyu ikh,  
bashni medniye ne zashchita im!  
Pomogi, Perun, porazit vruga!  
Char'i strashniye ne smutyat menya.

Day, Perun, bulatniy mech mne po ruke...

O, Lyudmila, Lel sulil mne radost...

Tshchetno volshebnaaya sila  
tuchi sdvigayet na nas,  
mozhet, uzhi blizok, Lyudmila,  
sladkiy svidaniya chas!  
V serdtse, lyubimom toboyu,  
mesta ne dam ya toske.  
Vsoyo sokrushu pred soboyu,  
lish bi mne mech po ruke!

*(Tuman proyasnyayetsya. Vdali vidna gromadnaya golova. Vnutri yeyo pomeschayetsya khor.)*

## No. 9 Stsena s Golovoy

### Golova (Khor)

3 Kto zdes bluzhdayet?

My horse has fallen, the child of war,  
and my shield and sword are all in pieces!

*(Ruslan arms himself with a spear, a shield and other armour; as he arms himself he searches for a sword, but the only ones he can find are light swords, and he disdainfully throws them aside.)*

Give me, Perun,  
a sword of damask steel,  
a warrior's sword, tempered in the heat of  
battle,  
forged by thunder in the fateful storm!  
One that will shine in the eyes of the enemy  
like a  
thunderstorm and send them fleeing from the  
field of battle in terror!

O Lyudmila, Lel promised us happiness.  
My heart believes that the storm will pass,  
that fate will be assuaged and will give me back  
your love and your embraces,  
that it will strew my life with flowers.  
No, my enemy's rejoicing will be short-lived.

Give me, Perun, etc.

I shall scatter them like dust in the wind,  
and towers of copper will not be able to protect  
them!

Help me, Perun, to strike down my enemies!  
Fearsome spells do not frighten me.

Give me, Perun, etc.

O Lyudmila, Lel promised, etc.

It is in vain that a magical power  
masses thunder clouds above us.  
Perhaps the sweet hour of meeting,  
Lyudmila, is already near at hand!  
In my heart which you so love,  
I shall give no place to anguish.  
If only I have a sword in my hand  
I shall strike down everything before me!

*(The mist clears. In the distance an enormous head becomes visible. The chorus is inside it.)*

## No.9 Scene with the Head

### Head (Chorus)

Who is roaming about there?

Prishlets bezrassudniy!  
Proch! Ne trevozh pozabitiikh kostey!  
Tleyushchikh vityazey son neprobudniy  
ya steregu ot nezvannikh gostey!

**Ruslan**

Vstrecha chudesnaya, vid neponyatniy!

**Golova**

Proch! Ne trevozh blagorodnikh kostey!...

*(Golova duyet gubami. Podnimayetsya burya.  
Ruslan porazhayet golovu kopyom; golova,  
poshatnuvshis, obnaruzhivayet khranimiy yeyu  
mech.)*

**Golova**

Pogib ya!

**Ruslan**

*(beryt mech i mashet im)*

Mech moy zhelanniyy!

Ya chuvstvuyu v dlani vsyu tsenu tebe!

No kto zhe ti? I chey bil etot mech?

**No. 10 Final**

**Rasskaz Golovi**

**Golova**

- 4 Nas bilo dvoye, brat moy i ya.  
Ya bil izvesten rostom ogromnim, siloy v boyu.  
Brat moy volshebnyk, zloy Chernomor,  
chudnoyu siloy v dlinnoy brade bil odaryon.

**Ruslan**

Brat tvoy volshebnyk,  
zloy Chernomor?

**Golova**

V zamke chudesnom mech-kladenets  
chudniy khranilsya:  
nam on oboim smertyu grozil.  
Potom i krovyyu mech ya dostal.  
Oba khoteli mech tot ostavit kazhdyy sebe.

**Ruslan**

Chto slishu? Ne etot li mech  
bradu Chernomora dolzhen otsech?

Reckless stranger!  
Clear off! Do not disturb these forgotten bones!  
The eternal sleep of decomposing knights.  
I guard them from uninvited guests!

**Ruslan**

A wondrous encounter, an inscrutable air!

**Head**

Clear off! Do not disturb, etc.

*(The Head blows air fom his lips. A storm brews  
up. Ruslan strikes the Head with his spear;  
staggering, the Head reveals a sword which he  
is guarding.)*

**Head**

I am slain!

**Ruslan**

*(taking the sword and waving it)*

The sword which I so desired!

In my hand I feel all your worth!

But who are you? And whose is this sword?

**No.10 Finale**

**The Head's story**

**Head**

There were two of us, my brother and I.  
I was famed for my enormous height, and my  
strength in battle. My brother, the wicked  
sorcerer Chernomor,  
was endowed with a wondrous power in his  
long beard.

**Ruslan**

Your brother is  
the wicked sorcerer Chernomor?

**Head**

The wondrous sword was kept  
at a splendid castle;  
it threatened us both with death.  
Then through bloodshed I won the sword.  
Each of us wanted to keep the sword in our  
possession.

**Ruslan**

What do I hear? Is this not the sword  
which is fated to cut off the beard of  
Chernomor?

### **Golova**

Brat, ustupaya mech, mne skazal:

"Kto pod zemlyoyu golos uslishit,  
bud tomu mech."

Ya prilozhilsya ukhom k zemle,  
karla kovarniy tem mechom mne golovu snyos.

I poletel on s bednoy glavoy v etu pustinyu,  
chtob podo mnoyu mech ya khranil.

!Vityaz moguchiy, on tvoy teper!

!Mshchenye kovarstvu!

!Zlobnomu bratu golovu proch!

.....

### **Ruslan**

!Mech sey chudesnyy

!zlobe kovarnoy polozhit konets!

### **Head**

My brother, whilst conceding the sword, said:

"Whoever of us can hear a voice beneath the  
earth

shall have the sword."

I put my ear to the ground,

but the crafty dwarf cut my head off with the  
sword.

And he flew with my head to this deserted spot  
so that I should keep the sword safe beneath me.

Mighty knight, it is yours now!

Let treachery be punished!

Off with my malevolent brother's head!

### **Ruslan**

This wonderful sword

shall put an end to insidious malice!

## DEYSTVIYETRETYE

*Teatr predstavlyayet volshebniy zamok Naini. Po raznim mestam stseni gruppi dev, podvlastnikh yey.*

### 5 No. 11 Antrakt

#### No. 12 Persidskiy Khor

##### Khor dev

- 6 Lozhitsya v pole mrak nochnoy,  
ot voln podnyalsya veter khladniy;  
uzh pozdno, putnik molodoy!  
Ukroysya v terem nash otradniy!  
Zdes nochyu nega i pokoy,  
a dnyom i shum, i pirovanye;  
pridi na druzhnoye prizvanye!  
Pridi, o putnik molodoy!  
U nas naydyosh krasavits roy,  
ikh nezhnii rechi i lobzanya,  
pridi na taynoye prizvanye!  
Pridi, o putnik molodoy!  
Tebe mi s utrenney zaryoy  
napolnim kubok na proshchanye,  
pridi na mirnoye prizvanye!  
Pridi, o putnik molodoy!  
Lozhitsya v pole mrak nochnoy...

##### Naina

Vityazi! Naprasno ishchete Lyudmilu!  
Tshchetni o Ratmire slyozii Gorislavi!  
Zamka Chernomora vam ved ne dostignut!

##### Khor

Pridi! Pridi! O, putnik molodoy!  
(*ukhodyat*)

##### Naina

Zdes vam vsem pogibnut ot char Nainii!  
(*ukhodit*)

### No. 13 Stsena i Kavatina Gorislavi

##### Gorislava

(*vkhodit*)

- 7 Kakiye sladostniye zvuki vo mne neslis v tishi?  
Kak druga glas,  
oni smyagchayut muki vo glubine dushi!  
K kakomu putniku mne slishalos  
prizvanye?  
Uvi!... Ne mne!...  
Komu zh delit moyo stradanye

## ACT THREE

*The magic castle of Naina. Groups of girls who are under her power are dispersed around the stage.*

### No.11 Entr'acte

#### No.12 Persian Chorus

##### Chorus of maidens

A nocturnal gloom descends on the field,  
a cold wind has risen from the waves;  
it is already late, young traveller!  
Take shelter in our joyful chamber!  
Here is sweet rapture and rest for the night,  
and in the daytime merriment and feasting;  
come in response to our cordial invitation!  
Come, o young traveller!  
Here you will find a swarm of beautiful  
maidens,  
their words and embraces are tender.  
Come to our secret invitation!  
Come, o young traveller!  
When dawn comes  
we shall fill your goblet to bid you farewell,  
come to our tranquil invitation!  
Come, o young traveller!  
A nocturnal gloom, etc.

##### Naina

Knight! In vain do you search for Lyudmila!  
In vain Gorislava sheds tears for Ratmir!  
You will not reach Chernomor's castle!

##### Chorus

Come! Come! O, young traveller!  
(*Exeunt.*)

##### Naina

Here you will all perish from our magic!  
(*Exit.*)

### No.13 Gorislava's Scene and Cavatina

##### Gorislava

(*entering*)

What sweet sounds were those drifting to me  
in the silence?  
Like the voice of my beloved  
they soothe the torments in the depths of my  
soul!  
Which traveller were they inviting?  
Alas... Not me!  
With whom am I to share my sufferings

v chuzhoy strane?  
 Lyubvi roskoshnaya zvezda,  
 ti zakatilas navsegda!  
 O, moy Ratmir!  
 Lyubov i mir v rodnoy priyut tebya zovut!  
 Uzheli mne vo tsvete let lyubvi skazat:  
 "Prosti navek!"

Ne dlya tebya I mne chuzhdoy  
 stala Rossiya milaya moyaya?  
 Revniviy plamen zataya,  
 ne ya I s pokornostyu vnimala,  
 kogda dlya negi v tishine platok bil  
 broshen ne ko mne?

O, moy Ratmir!...

Toska iz mirnovo garema  
 menya izgnala za toboy.  
 O, vozvratis na breg rodnoy!  
 Uzhel venok tyazhele shlema?  
 I zvuki trub, i stuk mechey  
 napeva zhyon tvoikh miley?

*(ukhodit)*

*(Vkhodit Ratmir, ustalivy ot dolgovo puti.)*

#### **No. 14 Ariya Ratmira**

##### **Ratmir**

- 8 I zhar, i znoy smenila nochi ten.  
 Kak mecht'i zvyozdi tikhoy nochi  
 sladkim snom dushu, serdtse nezhat.  
 Zasni, zasni, ustalaya dusha!  
 Sladkiy son, obnimi menya!  
 Net, son bezhit!...  
 Znakomiye krugom melkayut teni!  
 Toskuyet krov!

I v pamyati zazhglas zabitaya lyubov!  
 I roy zhivikh videniy  
 o broshennom gareme govorit!  
 Khazarii roskoshniy tsvet,  
 moi plenitelniye dev'i,  
 skorey, syuda ko mne!  
 Kak raduzhniye sni,  
 sletites, chudniya!  
 Akh, gde vi, gde vi?

in a foreign land?  
 Luxurious star of love,  
 you have set for ever!  
 O my Ratmir!  
 Love and peace summon you to your own dear  
 refuge.  
 Can it be that in the flower of my years of love  
 I am to say "Farewell for ever"?

Was it not for you that my dear Russia  
 became a foreign land for me?  
 Whilst hiding the flame of jealousy,  
 did I not listen humbly when the kerchief  
 betokening  
 sweet rapture in the silence was not thrown to  
 me?

O my Ratmir! *etc.*

Anguish has driven me  
 from the peaceful harem to search for you.  
 Oh return to your own dear shore!  
 Can the wedding crown be heavier than the  
 helmet?  
 And the sound of trumpets, and the clash of  
 swords  
 more appealing than the singing of your wives?  
*(Exit.)*

*(Ratmir enters, tired from his long journey.)*

#### **No.14 Ratmir's Aria**

##### **Ratmir**

The shade of night has replaced the heat and  
 the sultriness.  
 Like dreams, the stars of the calm night caress  
 the soul and the heart into a sweet slumber.  
 Sleep, sleep, you weary soul!  
 Let sweet slumber embrace me!  
 No, sleep evades me!  
 Familiar shadow are darting all around!  
 There is a longing in my blood!

And a forgotten love has been rekindled in my  
 memory!  
 And a swarm of living apparitions  
 about the abandoned harem speaks to me!  
 O the luxurious flower of the Khazar lands,  
 my captivating maidens,  
 make haste to me here!  
 Like rainbow dreams,  
 fly to me, wondrous maidens!  
 Ah! Where are you, where are you?

Chudniy son zhivoy lyubvi  
budit zhar v moyey krovi;  
slyozī zhgut moi glaza,  
negoyu goryat usta.  
Teni tainstvennikh dev  
v goryachikh obyatyakh drozhat... Akh!  
Ne uletayte, ne pokidayte  
strastnovno druga v zharkiy chas lyubvi!  
Ne uletayte, miliye devi!

Strastniy shum zhivikh rechey,  
yarkiy blesk mladikh ochey,  
yunikh dev vozdushniy vid  
mne o bilom govorit...  
Strastniy shum zhivikh rechey...

Bleshchet zarnitsey zhivoy  
ulibka vo mrake nochnom,  
svetit lyubovuyu biloy,  
i radostno v serdtse moyom. Akh!  
Ne razbegaytes, ne razletaytes,  
miliye devi, yuniye devi,  
v zharkiy chas lyubvi!

Chudniy son zhivoy lyubvi...

Skorey syuda ko mne sletayte,  
chudniye devi moi!

*(Vbegayut devi Naini i svoimi plyaskami  
privodyat Ratmira v sladostrastnoye  
ocharovaniye.)*

## 9 No. 15 Tantsi

### No. 16 Final

#### Gorislava

*(vkhodit)*

- 10 O moy Ratmir! Ti zdes opyat so mnoy!  
V obyatyakh tvoikh day prezhniye vostorgi  
mne uznat i zaglushit stradaniya razluki  
lobzanyem strastnim i zhivim!  
No ti ne uznayosh menya?...  
Tvoy vzor kovo-to ishchet?  
O, vozvratis, moy miliy drug,  
k prezhney lyubvi!  
Skazhi, chem ya prognevala tebya?  
Uzhel lyubov, stradanya...

#### Ratmir

Zachem lyubit? Zachem stradat?  
Nam zhizn dlya radosti dana!  
Prekrasna ti, no ne odna,

The wondrous dream of a true love  
awakens the fire in my blood;  
the tears burn my eyes,  
and my lips are aflame with sweet bliss.  
The shades of the mysterious maidens  
quiver in passionate embraces... Ah!  
Do not fly away, do not forsake  
the amorous lover in the ardent hour of love!  
Do not fly away, dear maidens!

The passionate sound of living words,  
the sparkling brilliance of youthful eyes,  
the airy form of young maidens  
speak to me of the past...  
The passionate sound, *etc.*

In the darkness a living smile  
flashes like summer lightning  
and shines joyfully  
like a past love in my heart. Ah!  
Do not run away, do not fly away,  
youthful maidens, dear maidens,  
in the ardent hour of love!

The wondrous dream, *etc.*

Quickly, fly to me here,  
my wondrous maidens!

*(Naina's maidens run in and rouse Ratmir to a  
state of voluptuous enchantment with their  
dancing.)*

## No.15 Dances

### No.16 Finale

#### Gorislava

*(entering)*

O my Ratmir! You are here with me again!  
Give me the transports of former times in your  
embrace,  
let me know and then suppress the suffering of  
our parting with a real and passionate embrace!  
But do you do not recognise me?  
Does your gaze search for someone?  
Oh come back my dear beloved  
to your old love!  
Tell me, how have I angered you?  
Can it be that love and suffering...

#### Ratmir

Why love? Why suffer?  
Life was given to us for joy!  
You are pretty, but you are not the only one,

no ne odna prekrasna...  
Ostav dokuchniye mechti,  
lovi lish naslazhdeniya chas!

*(Dev'i okruzhayut Ratmira i zasloniyayut Gorislavu.)*

*(Tantsi)*

**Khor**

Miliy putnik, kak davno mi  
v chas zakata zhdyom tebya!  
Ti yavilsya na prizvanye  
i vostorgi nam prinyos!  
Ostavaysya, miliy, s nami,  
zhizni radosti delit.  
Ne gonyaysya po-pustomu,  
tshchetnoy slavi ne ishchi.  
Kak roskoshno, bezzabotno  
s nami budesh dni vesti!

**Gorislava**

*(Ratmiru)*

O, ne vveryaysya laskam kovarnim!  
Net, ne lyubovyu, zlobnoy nasmeshkoy  
ochi sverkayut mstitelnikh dev!

**Khor**

Ostavaysya, miliy, s nami,  
zhizni radosti delit.  
Kak roskoshno, bezzabotno  
s nami budesh dni vesti!  
Vot drugovo na pogibel  
shlyot Naina v gosti k nam!

**Gorislava**

Molentye tshchetno: on ocharovan!  
On osleplyon!

**Ruslan**

*(vkhodit)*

Skoro I ya naydu khishchnovo vraga!  
No ne zdes li yevo obitel?

**Khor**

Ne strashimsya! Ne strashimsya!  
Pod pokrovom char Naini ti padyosh!

**Gorislava**

Ochi pokriti negi istomoy!  
Gordoy ul'bkoy, strastnim zhelanyem  
szhati usta!

**Ruslan**

Mshchenye, zloba dukh trevozhat;

you are not the only pretty one...  
Leave your tiresome dreams,  
and seize the hour of pleasure!

*(The maidens surround Ratmir and screen Gorislava from him.)*

*(Dances.)*

**Chorus**

Dear traveller, how long  
we have awaited you at the hour of sunset!  
You appeared in reply to our invitation  
and brought us transports of delight!  
Stay with us, dearest,  
and share with us the joys of life.  
Do not chase us away for a trifle,  
Do not search for futile glory.  
How luxuriously, how carefree  
you will spend your days with us!

**Gorislava**

*(to Ratmir)*

Oh do not believe in those deceitful caresses!  
No, it is not with love, but malicious mockery  
that the eyes of the vengeful maidens sparkle!

**Chorus**

Stay with us, dearest,  
and share with us the joys of life.  
How luxuriously, how carefree  
you will spend your days with us!  
Here is another one whom Naina has  
sent to his perdition as our guest!

**Gorislava**

My entreaties are in vain: he is bewitched.  
He is dazzled!

**Ruslan**

*(entering)*

Shall I find my grasping enemy soon!  
Can this be his abode?

**Chorus**

We are not afraid! We are not afraid!  
You will fall under the veil of Naina's spells!

**Gorislava**

Their eyes are covered by a langorous rapture!  
Their lips are compressed  
with a proud smile, and with ardent desire!

**Ruslan**

Vengeance and malice agitate my spirit;

mech volshebniy zhertvi zhdyyot.

### Gorislava

O, doblestniy vityaz!  
Szhalsya nad bednoy,  
broshennoy zhertvoy lyubvi!  
Ya strastyu pilayu k prekrasnomu drugu,  
a on, uvlechyonniy tolpoyu prelestnits,  
ne vidit, ne pomnit svokey Gorislavi!..  
Ya vsyo na zhertvu yemu prinesla,  
vsyo v zhertvu yemu:  
otday zhe mne, otday serdtse,  
lyubov voroti!

### Ruslan

*(Prikhodit malo-pomalu v ocharovaniye, smotrya na Gorislavu.)*

Etot grustniy vzor, strastyu raspalyonniy,  
golos, zvuk rechey,  
stroyniye dvizheniya trevozhat serdtse mne...  
I Lyudmila miliy obraz tusknet, ischezayet.  
O, bogi! Chto so mnoy?  
Serdtshe noyet i treshcheyet.

### Ratmir

Zachem lyubit? Zachem stradat?  
Nam zhizn dlya radosti dana?

### Gorislava

Tshchetni molenya! On ocharovan!  
Bogi! Vi szhaltes nad devoy neschastnoy!  
Zazhgite v Ratmire prezhniye chuvstva!  
O, bogi, vi szhaltes!  
O, bogi! Szhaltes nad devoy neschastnoy!

### Ratmir

Ostavaya slavu i zaboti,  
pryamaya zhizn iskat utekh i naslazhdeniya.  
Zachem lyubit? Zachem stradat?  
Nam zhizn dlya radosti dana!

### Ruslan

Etot grustniy vzor...

### Gorislava

Gore mne!  
Ne vnemyut bogi voplyu serdtsa moyevo!  
Zdes ostanus,  
zdes pogibnu ot zhestokikh muk lyubvi!

the magic sword is awaiting its victim.

### Gorislava

O valiant knight!  
Take pity on a poor maiden,  
the rejected victim of love!  
I smoulder with passion for my fair beloved,  
but he has been spirited away by a crowd of  
charmers,  
he does not see, he does not remember his  
Gorislava!  
I have sacrificed everything for him:  
give him back his heart,  
return his love to me!

### Ruslan

*(little by little falling under the enchantment, and looking at Gorislava)*

That sad look inflamed by passion,  
that voice, those words,  
those elegant movements agitate my heart...  
And the dear image of Lyudmila is growing dim,  
vanishing.  
O gods! What is happening to me?  
My heart aches and beats so fast.

### Ratmir

Why love? Why suffer?  
Life was given to us for joy!

### Gorislava

My entreaties are in vain! He is entranced!  
O gods! Take pity on an unfortunate maiden!  
Set the old feelings ablaze in Ratmir!  
O gods, take pity!  
O gods! Take pity on an unfortunate maiden!

### Ratmir

Leaving glory and cares,  
the true life is to search for pleasure and  
enjoyment.  
Why love? Why suffer?  
Life was given to us for joy!

### Ruslan

That sad look, etc.

### Gorislava

Oh woe is me!  
The gods do not heed the cry of my heart!  
Here I shall remain,  
here I shall perish from the cruel torments  
of love!



**Ratmir**

Mezhdu dev zhivikh, prelestnikh,  
zdes ostanus navsegda!  
Kazhdii den vostorgom novim ozhivlyatsya  
budu ya!  
Mezhdu dev zhivikh, prelestnikh, zdes  
ostanus navsegda!

**Ruslan**

Net! Uzh ya ne v silakh bole  
muk serdechnik prevozmoch!  
Vzori dev terzayut serdtse  
kak otravlennoy streloy!

**Khor**

Gore, gore vam, bednim putnikam!  
U Naini zdes vi pod vlastiyu!  
Vse usiliya ne pomogut vam,  
ne izbavyat vas ot volshebniitsi!  
Zavlekli mi vas v set kovarnuyu,  
laskoy khitroyu usipili vas.  
Gore vam, gore vam!

*(Yavlyayetsya Finn. Devi ischezayut.)*

**Finn**

- 11 Vityazi! Kovarnaya Naina  
uspela vas obmanom obolstit.  
I vi mogli v postidnoy nege  
visokiy podvig pozabit!  
Vnimayte zhe! Mnoyu vam  
sudba svoi velenya obyavlyayet:  
Izhivoy nadezhday, Ratmir, ne plenyaysya,  
schastye svoyo s Gorislavoy naydyosh.  
Budet Lyudmila podrugoy Ruslana:  
tak resheno neizmennoy sudboy!  
Proch, obolshchenya! Proch, zamok obmana!

*(Finn povodit volshebniim zhezlom; zamok  
mgnovenno prevrashchayetsya v les.)*

**Gorislava, Ratmir, Finn, Ruslan**

Teper Lyudmila ot nas spasenya zhdyot!  
Volshebstva sila pred muzhestvom padyot!  
Vas put opasniy ne dolzhen ustrashit.  
Udel prekrasniy: il past, il pobedit!  
Teper Lyudmila ot vas spasenya zhdyot...

**Ratmir**

Amid the living, charming maidens,  
I shall remain here for ever!  
Each day I shall be enlivened by new transports!  
Amid the living, charming maidens,  
I shall remain here for ever!

**Ruslan**

No! I have no strength left to overcome  
the torments of my heart!  
The glances of the maidens torture my heart  
like a poisoned arrow!

**Chorus**

Woe, o woe to you poor travellers!  
Here you are in the power of Naina!  
All your efforts will not help you,  
they will not save you from the sorceress!  
We have drawn you into a cunning trap,  
we have lulled you to sleep with our artful  
caresses.  
Woe to you, woe to you!

*(Finn appears. The maiden disappear.)*

**Finn**

Knights! The crafty Naina  
has succeeded in seducing you by deception.  
In shameful bliss  
you have forgotten your noble feat!  
Heed me now! Fate makes its commands  
known to you through me:  
Ratmir, do not be captivated by false hope,  
you will find happiness only with Gorislava.  
Lyudmila shall be the beloved of Ruslan:  
immutable fate has thus decreed!  
Away enchantments! Away castle of deceit!

*(Finn waves a magic wand; the castle turns  
instantly into a forest.)*

**Gorislava, Ratmir, Finn, Ruslan**

Now Lyudmila awaits our help!  
Before courage the power of magic shall fall  
away!  
You need not fear the dangerous path.  
It is a fine destiny: either to fall or to vanquish!  
Now Lyudmila, etc.

**CD 3**
**DEYSTVIYE CHETVYORTOYE**

*Teatr predstavlyayet volshebniye sadi Chernomora. Vdali voda.*

**1 No. 17 Antrakt**
**No. 18 Stsena i Ariya Lyudmila**
**Lyudmila**

- 2** Vdali ot milovo, v nevole  
zachem mne zhit na svete bole?  
O ti, chya gibelnaya strast  
menya terzayet i leleyet!  
Mne ne strashna zlodeya vlast:  
Lyudmila umeret sumeyet!  
Volni, volni golubiyey!

*(Khochet brosisya v vodu.)*  
Dayte mir dushe moyey!

*(Iz vodi poyavlyayutsya vodyaniye devi i uderzhivayut yeyo.)*

*(Balet)*

**Khor**

*(Nevidimiy khor)*  
Pokoris sudeb velenyam,  
o prekrasnaya knyazhna!  
Vsyo zdes manit k naslazhdenyam,  
zhizn zdes radostey polna!

*(Vodyaniye devi ischezayut.)*

**Lyudmila**

O, chto mne zhizn?  
Kakaya radost? Kto vozvratit yeyo?  
Yedva vzaimnaya lyubov  
moyu privetstvovala mladost,  
yedva voznik blazhenstva den,  
i net uzhe so mnoy Ruslana!  
I schastye skrilosya, kak ten,  
kak solntse v oblakakh tumana!  
*(Saditsya i zadumivayetsya.)*

*(Iz tsvetov vikhodyat volshebniye devi i starayutsya uteshit Lyudmilu.)*

*(Balet)*

**Khor**

Ne setuy, milaya knyazhna!

**CD 3**
**ACT FOUR**

*The magic gardens of Chernomor. Water in the distance.*

**No.17 Entr'acte**
**No.18 Scene and Aria of Lyudmila**
**Lyudmila**

Far away from my beloved, in captivity,  
why should I go on living any longer in this  
world?

O ruinous passions,  
you torment me and foster hopes!  
I do not fear the sorcerer's power:  
Lyudmila will know how to die!  
Waves, o blue waves!  
*(She is about to cast herself into the waters.)*  
Give peace to my soul!

*(Water maidens appear and hold her back)*

*(Ballet)*

**Chorus**

*(invisible)*  
Submit to the commands of fate,  
o beautiful princess!  
Everything here lures you towards delights,  
life here is full of joys!

*(The water maidens disappear.)*

**Lyudmila**

Oh what is life to me?  
What joy? Who will bring joy back to me?  
Mutual love had scarcely  
greeted my tender years,  
the day of bliss had scarcely dawned  
and Ruslan is no longer with me!  
And happiness has vanished like a shadow,  
like the sun behind clouds of mist!  
*(She sits deep in thought.)*

*(Magical maidens appear from out of the flowers; they try to console Lyudmila.)*

*(Ballet)*

**Chorus**

Do not grieve, dear princess!

Razveseli tvoj vzor prekrasniy!  
 I etot zamok i strana,  
 i vlastelin tebe podvlastni!  
 Ne setuy, milaya knyazhna!  
 Chto pomnit s pechalyu biloye?  
 Yasneye zdes solntse zlatoye,  
 tomneye zdes v nochi luna!  
 Nezrimiye divi, letaya,  
 s revnivim vnimanyem lyubvi,  
 s zabotoyu, deva mladaya,  
 zdes dni okhranyayut tvoi.  
*(Volshebniye dev'i ischezayut.)*

### Lyudmila

- 3 Akh ti, dolya-dolyushka, dolya moya gorkaya!  
 Rano moyo solnishko za nenastnoy tucheyu,  
 za grozoyu skrilosya!  
 Ne vidat mne boleye ni rodnovo batyushki,  
 ni dragovo vityazya!  
 Toskovat mne, devitse, v bezotradnoy  
 dolyushke!  
 Akh, ti, dolya-dolyushka, dolya moya gorkaya!...

*(Na stsene yavlyayetsya stol s roskoshneyshimi plodami, zolotiye i serebryaniye derevya, shevelya listyami, vedut kuranti.)*

### Khor

Ne setuy, milaya knyazhna!...

### Lyudmila

Ne nuzhno mne tvoikh darov,  
 ni skuchnikh pesen, ni pirov!  
 Nazlo, v muchitelnoy istome  
 umru sredi tvoikh sadov!

### Khor

*(Nevidimiy khor)*  
 I etot zamok i strana,  
 i vlastelin tebe podvlastni!  
 Sklonis k lyubvi  
 pochitelnoy i strastnoy,  
 sklonis k lyubvi!

### Lyudmila

Bezumniy volshebnik!  
 Ya doch Svetozara,  
 ya Kiyeva gordost!  
 Ne chari volshebstva  
 devichye serdtse navek pokorili,  
 no vityazya ochi zazhgli moyu dushu,  
 vityazi ochi zazhgli dushu mne!  
 Charuy zhe, kudesnik: ya k smerti gotova!  
 Prezreniya dev'i nichem ne izmenish!

Brighten up your pretty looks!  
 This castle, this land  
 and its owner are all yours to command!  
 Do not grieve, dear princess!  
 Why remember the past with sorrow?  
 Here the golden sun is brighter,  
 the moon is more languid at night time!  
 Youthful maiden,  
 invisible creatures fly to you  
 with the jealous attention of love,  
 and solicitously preserve your days here.  
*(The magical maidens disappear.)*

### Lyudmila

Ah, my fate, my bitter fate!  
 Too soon my sun has been hidden  
 behind dark thunder clouds, in the eye of the  
 storm!  
 I am never to see my dear father again,  
 nor my precious knight!  
 I am to pine away with my hapless fate!  
 Ah, my fate, etc.

*(A table appears on the stage bearing the most luxurious fruits, gold and silver trees rustling their leaves and ringing with chiming bells.)*

### Chorus

Do not grieve, etc.

### Lyudmila

I do not want your gifts,  
 nor your tedious songs, nor your feasts!  
 To spite you I shall die in agonising exhaustion  
 amid your gardens!

### Chorus

*(invisible)*  
 This castle, this land  
 and its owner are all yours to command!  
 Yield to love,  
 to respectful and passionate love,  
 yield to love!

### Lyudmila

You mad sorcerer!  
 I am the daughter of Svetozar,  
 I am the pride of Kiev!  
 It is not magical charms which have subdued  
 a maiden's heart for ever, but the knight's eyes  
 which have set my soul on fire!  
 So, wizard, cast your spells: I am ready to die!  
 You will not be able to change a maiden's scorn!

Bezumniy volshebnik!...

**Khor**

Naprasni slyozī, gnev bessilen!  
Smirishsya, gordaya knyazhna,  
pred vlastyu Chernomora!

**Lyudmila**

Charuy zhe, kudesnik: ya k smerti gotova!  
Prezreniya devī nichem ne izmenish!

*(Lyudmila, iznuryonnaya poslednim vzrīvom gneva, padayet obsessiennaya na skamyu pod derevom, nad neyu raskidivayetsya namyot. Ona zasipayet.)*

**Khor**

*(Za kulisami)*

Mirniy son, uspokoy serdtse devī!  
Pust pechal i toska ot neyo proch letyat!  
Zhenikha pozabiv, pust knyazhna  
budet zdes vesela, kak ditya;  
ne izbegnut yey togda vlasti Chernomora!

**4 No. 19 Marsh Chernomora**

*(Poyavlyayetsya shestviye: iz glubini steni vikhodyat muzikanti [dukhovoy orkestr]. Za nimi idut rabi i podvlastniye Chernomora, nakonets, i sam volshebnik Chernomor — starik-karlik s ogromneyshey borodoy, kotoruyu nesut na podushkakh arapchonki. Vo vremya shestviya Lyudmila malo-pomalu prikhodit v sebya i, kogda Chernomor saditsya vozle neyo na tron, to vīrazhayet zhestami negodovaniye.)*

*(Dukhovoy orkestr na stsene. Po znaku Chernomora nachinayutsya tantsi.)*

**No. 20 Vostochniye Tantsi**

5 a) Turetskiy tanets

6 b) Arabskiy tanets

7 v) Lezginka

You mad sorcerer, etc.

**Chorus**

Your tears are in vain, your anger is powerless!  
You shall resign yourself, proud princess,  
to the power of Chernomor!

**Lyudmila**

So, wizard, cast your spells: I am ready to die!  
You will not be able to change a maiden's scorn!

*(Exhausted by her last outburst of anger, Lyudmila collapses onto a bench in front of a tree. A covered awning encircles her and she falls asleep.)*

**Chorus**

*(in the wings)*

Let peaceful sleep calm the heart of the maiden!  
Let sorrow and grief fly far away from her!  
Forgetting her intended, let the princess be as cheerful as a child here;  
then she will not be able to evade the power of Chernomor!

**No.19 March of Chernomor**

*(A procession comes into view: from the back of the stage musicians appear (wind band). They are followed by the slaves and subjects of Chernomor, and finally by Chernomor himself — an old dwarf with an enormous beard which little blackamoors carry on a cushion. During the march Lyudmila little by little comes to her senses, and when Chernomor sits on the throne near her, she makes indignant gestures at him.)*

*(Wind band on stage. On a signal from Chernomor the dances begin.)*

**No.20 Oriental Dances**

a) Turkish dance

b) Arabian Dance

c) Lezginka (Caucasian dance)

## No. 21 Khor

*(Truba za stsenoy, zovushchaya Chernomora na poyedinok. Chernomor povergayet Lyudmilu v volshebniy son i speshit srazitsya s Ruslanom. Chast khora okruzhayet spyashchuyu Lyudmilu, a drugaya chast vistupayet na avantsenu.)*

### Khor

- 8 Pogibnet nezhdanniý prishlets!  
Pred groznoy tverdiñey volshebnovo zamka  
nemalo pogiblo bogatirey.  
Pogibnet nezhdanniý prishlets!...

*(Vdali viden polyot Ruslana, derzhashchevo za borodu Chernomora.)*

O, chudo! Chto vidim!  
Gde vityaz nashyolsya, sposobniy  
srazitsya s volshebnikom moshchnim?  
Bedoyu nam grozit sudba!  
Kto pobedit i kto pogibnet?  
I zhebiy nas kakoy postignet?  
I chem okonchitsya borba?  
Bedoyu nam grozit sudba!...

## No. 22 Final

*(Ruslan vkhodit pobeditelem. Boroda Chernomora obvita vokrug yevo shlema. S nim Gorislava i Ratmir.)*

### Ruslan

- 9 Pobeda, pobeda, Lyudmila!  
Chto znachit tvoy son?  
Lyudmila, ya zdes!  
Zlodey pobezhdyon,  
i chari lyubov sokrushila!

### Gorislava, Ratmir

Volshebniy skoval yevo son!  
Akh, tshchetno zlodey pobezhdyon:  
ne gibnet vrazhdebnaya sila!

*(Ruslan beryot Lyudmilu za ruku, starayas razbudit yevo.)*

### Ruslan

O zhizni otrada, mladaya supruga!  
Uzhel ti ne slishish stenaniya druga?

*(obrashchayas k Ratmiru)*

No serdtse yevo trepeshchet i byotsya,

## No.21 Chorus

*(An offstage trumpet challenging Chernomor to a duel. Chernomor casts a magical sleep over Lyudmila and hastens off to do battle with Ruslan. One part of the chorus surrounds the sleeping Lyudmila, and the other part goes forward to the proscenium.)*

### Chorus

The unexpected stranger shall die, he shall die!  
Not a few knights have perished  
before the fearsome tower of the magic castle.  
The unexpected stranger, etc.

*(In the distance Ruslan flies up clinging to the beard of Chernomor.)*

Oh wonder! What do we see!  
Where has the knight got to,  
is he capable of doing battle with the mighty  
sorcerer?  
Fate threatens us with calamity!  
Who shall be the victor and who shall perish?  
And what fate will befall us?  
And how will the battle end?  
Fate threatens us, etc.

## No.22 Finale

*(Ruslan enters victorious. Chernomor's beard is woven around his helmet. Gorislava and Ratmir accompany him.)*

### Ruslan

Victory, victory, Lyudmila  
what does your sleeping mean?  
Lyudmila, I am here!  
The villain is vanquished,  
and love has destroyed his spells!

### Gorislava, Ratmir

She is held fast in a magical sleep!  
It is in vain that the villain has been vanquished:  
his evil power is not defeated!

*(Ruslan takes Lyudmila in his arms and tries to wake her.)*

### Ruslan

O joy of my life, my youthful bride! Can it be  
that you do not hear the groans of your  
beloved?  
*(turning to Ratmir)*

But her heart is quivering and pounding,

ulibka porkhayet na milikh ustakh.  
 Nevedomiy strakh mne dushu terzayet!  
 O, drugi! Kto znayet,  
 ko mne li ulibka letit  
 i serdtse po mne li drozhit?

**Ratmir**

Kipuchaya revnost yevo vozmushchayet!

**Gorislava**

Kto lyubit,  
 tot revnost nevolno pitayet!

**Khor**

Svirepaya revnost yevo vozmushchayet!  
 Za borodu karli Perun otomshchayet

**Ruslan**

*(s otchayanem)*  
 O, drugi!  
 Mozhet bit, ona moyey nadezhde izmenila?  
 Mogla l neschastnaya Lyudmila  
 razrushit kov' kolduna?  
*(Beryot za ruku Lyudmilu i s otchayanem  
 potryasayet yeyo.)*  
 Lyudmila, Lyudmila, day serdtsu otvet!  
 Skazat li mne gorko blazhenstvu  
 "prosti?"

**Gorislava, Ratmir**

Nevinnost mladentsa igrayet  
 rummyantsem na alikh shchekakh;  
 tsvet snezhnoy lilei torzhestvenno  
 bleshchet na yunom chele.

**Ruslan**

Skoreye, skoreye v otchiznu!  
 Kudesnikov silnikh szovyom  
 i k radostyam vnov ozhiviyom,  
 il spravim pechalnuyu triznu!

**Gorislava, Ratmir**

Skoreye na polden poydyom,  
 i tam, na kiyevskom brege,  
 kudesnikov silnikh szovyom  
 i k zhizni knyazhnu vozzovyom!

**Khor**

!Vityaz silniy, vityaz slavnii,  
 !da svershitsya nash udel,  
 !mi gotovi v put s toboyu,  
 !s usiplyonnoy knyazhnoy,  
 !v dalniy, chuzhdiy nam predel!

a smile flutters about her dear lips.  
 A mysterious fear racks my soul!  
 O friends! Who knows  
 whether it is to me that this smile flies  
 whether it is for me that her heart trembles?

**Ratmir**

A seething jealousy consumes him!

**Gorislava**

Jealousy involuntarily feeds  
 the one who loves!

**Chorus**

A blind jealousy consumes him!  
 Perun is taking his revenge for the dwarf's  
 beard!

**Ruslan**

*(in despair)*  
 O friends!  
 Perhaps she has betrayed my hopes?  
 Could my unfortunate Lyudmila  
 have overcome the machinations of the wizard?  
*(taking Lyudmila's hand and shaking it in  
 despair)*  
 Lyudmila, Lyudmila, give my heart your reply!  
 Am I bitterly to say to bliss:  
 "Farewell"?

**Gorislava, Ratmir**

The girl's innocence  
 plays in the blush of her rosy cheeks;  
 the colour of the snowy lily sparkles  
 triumphantly  
 on her youthful brow.

**Ruslan**

Quickly, quickly to our homeland!  
 We shall call together powerful wizards  
 and restore joy to her again,  
 or we shall celebrate the mournful funeral feast!

**Gorislava, Ratmir**

Quickly, we shall travel to the south,  
 and there on Kiev's banks  
 we shall call together powerful wizards  
 and restore the princess to life!

**Chorus**

Mighty knight, glorious knight,  
 let our destiny be fulfilled,  
 we are ready to go with you  
 and the sleeping princess  
 to a distant, alien land!

Opusteyut nashi seni,  
arfa dukhov zamolchit,  
i priyut lyubvi i leni  
skoro vremya razorit!

**Ruslan, Ratmir, Gorislava**  
Kudesnikov silnikh szovyom,  
i k zhizni knyazhnu vozzovyom!

The passageways of our palace are deserted,  
the harp of the spirits shall fall silent,  
And time shall soon destroy  
the haven of love and languor!

**Ruslan, Ratmir, Gorislava**  
We shall call together the powerful wizards  
and restore the princess to life!

## DEYSTVIYE PYATOYE

*Teatr predstavlyayet dolinu. Priznaki vblizi raspolozhennoyo stana. Lunnaya noch. Ratmir storozhit poyezd.*

### 10 No. 23 Antrakt

#### No. 24 Romans Ratmira

##### Ratmir

- 11 Ona mne zhizn, ona mne radost!  
Ona mne vozvratila vnov moyu utrachennuyu mladost,  
i schastye, i lyubov!  
Ona mne zhizn...

Menya krasavitsi lyubili,  
no tshchetno plennits molodikh  
usta vostorgi mne sulili:  
dlya Gorislavi pokinul ikh!  
No tshchetno plennits molodikh...

Ostavlyu moy garem vesyoliy  
i v teni sladostnikh dubrav  
zabudu mech i shlem tyazhyoliy,  
a s nimi slavu i vragov!  
Ona mne zhizn...

#### No. 25 Rechitativ i Khor

##### Ratmir

- 12 Vsyo tikho! Dremlet stan!  
Bliz ocharovannoy Lyudmilī  
Ruslan zabilsya kratkim snom.  
Ne v silakh bedniy vityaz  
ot char Naini osvobodit knyazhnu...  
Spokoyno otdokhnite: ya steregu vash mirniy  
son,  
a zavtra vnov v privichnuyu dorogu,  
na Kiyev mi napravim put!  
Bit mozhet, tam mi otdokhnyom  
i minet nashe gore.

*(Rabi Chernomora vbegayut v ispuqe.)*

##### Khor

V strashnom smyateni, v dikom volneni  
mrachnim sobranym skhoditsya stan:  
skrilsya Ruslan!  
Tayno nevedomo skrilas knyazhna!..  
Dukhi nochey legche teney

## ACT FIVE

*A valley. Signs of a nearby camp. A moonlit night. Ratmir is watching over the convoy.*

### No.23 Entr'acte

#### No.24 Ratmir's Romance

##### Ratmir

She is my life, she is my joy!  
She has returned to me again  
my lost youth,  
my happiness and love!  
She is my life, etc.

The beautiful maidens loved me,  
but it was in vain that the lips  
of these young captive maidens  
promised me transports of delight:  
for Gorislava I have abandoned them!  
It was in vain that the lips, etc.

I shall leave my carefree harem,  
and in the shade of delightful groves  
I shall forget my weighty sword and helmet,  
and with them all glory and adversaries!  
She is my life, etc.

#### No.25 Recitative and Chorus

##### Ratmir

All is quiet! The camp sleeps!  
Near to the enchanted Lyudmila  
Ruslan has forgotten his woes in a deep sleep.  
The poor knight is not able  
to free the princess from the magic spell...  
Rest calmly: I shall watch over your peaceful  
sleep.  
And tomorrow on the accustomed road once  
more  
we shall make our way to Kiev!  
Perhaps we shall rest there  
and our grief shall pass.

*(Chernomor's slaves run in in fear.)*

##### Chorus

In terrible disarray, in wild trepidation  
the camp is coming together gloomily:  
Ruslan has made off!  
The princess has secretly and mysteriously  
disappeared too...  
The night spirits, lighter than shadows,



devu-krasavitsu v polnoch pokhitali!  
Bedniy Ruslan! Tseli ne vedaya,  
taynoyu siloyu v polnoch glubokuyu  
skrihsya za bednoy knyazhnoy!..  
Bedniy Ruslan...

*(Po znaku Ratmira rabī udalyayutsya.)*

## No. 26 Duet Ratmira i Finna

### Ratmir

- 13 Chto slishu ya? Lyudmilī net?  
Bīt mozhet, vnov vo vlasti zliikh  
volshebnikov ona!  
Za ney Ruslan, moy vityaz bedniy, ischez vo  
tme nochnoy.  
Kto ikh spasyot? Gde izbavitel?  
Chto medlit Finn?

*(Yavlyayetsya Finn.)*

### Finn

Uspokoysya!  
Minet vremya,  
radost tikhaya blesnyot,  
i nad vami solntse zhizni, radost tikhaya  
vzoydyot!  
Uspokoysya!  
Zloy Naini to posledniy bil udar.  
Vas zovyot inaya dolya,  
minut kozni zlobnikh char!

### Ratmir

Ti razrushil zliye seti!  
Ot Naini tī ikh spas.  
Bud zhe im zashchitoy snova,  
pomogi im v grozniy chas.  
Pomogi im, kak i prezhde,  
bud zashchitoy ot vragov,  
tī za nas, i ya nadezhde,  
ya blazhenstvu veryu vnov.

### Finn

Uspokoysya! Minet vremya...

### Ratmir

Ya spokoyen! Minet vremya...

### Finn

Zliye seti razorvu ya!  
Vlast moya ikh vnov spasyot,  
i Lyudmila, i Ruslanu  
schastye novoye blesnyot.  
*(Otdayot Ratmiru volshebniy persten.)*  
S perstnem sim volshebniim v Kiyev speshi:  
na puti tī uvidish Ruslana.

have abducted the pretty maiden!  
Poor Ruslan! Without knowing his purpose,  
by a mysterious force in the depths of night,  
he has made off in pursuit of the princess!  
Poor Ruslan, etc.

*(On a signal from Ratmir the slaves go away.)*

## No.26 Duet of Ratmir and Finn

### Ratmir

What do I hear? Lyudmila gone?  
Perhaps she is again  
in the power of evil sorcerers!  
Ruslan has made off after her; my poor knight  
has disappeared into the gloom of the night.  
Who will save them? Where is our deliverer?  
Why does Finn delay?

*(Finn appears.)*

### Finn

Be calm!  
Time is passing,  
and tranquil joy shall appear,  
and the sun of life shall rise above you  
and tranquil joy shall reign!  
Be calm!  
That was the final blow of wicked Naina.  
Another destiny is calling you,  
the intrigues of evil spells shall pass!

### Ratmir

You have destroyed her evil snares!  
You have saved them from Naina.  
Be their protector once again  
and help them in this dread hour.  
Help them as before,  
be their support against their enemies,  
you are with us and I believe  
again in hope and bliss.

### Finn

Be calm! Time is passing, etc.

### Ratmir

I am calm! Time is passing, etc.

### Finn

I shall tear asunder the evil snares!  
My power shall save them again,  
and happiness shall shine again  
for Ruslan and Lyudmila.  
*(He gives Ratmir a magic ring)*  
Hasten to Kiev with this magic ring:  
on the way you will see Ruslan.

Persten sey razbudit knyazhnu oto sna,  
i snova na radost proсныotsya ona,  
zhiva i prekrasna, kak prezhde.

**Ratmir**

S polnoy veroy v Kiyev s perstnem poydu,  
i Ruslanu vruchu s upovanyem:  
persten sey razbudit knyazhnu oto sna,  
i snova na radost proсныotsya ona,  
zhiva i prekrasna kak prezhde!

**Ratmir, Finn**

Stradanyam nastupit konets,  
mī gore zabudem biloye,  
i svezhiy venets ukrasit  
knyazhni chelo molodoye.

**Ratmir**

S perstnem sim volshebniḡm v Kiyev poydu...

**Finn**

S perstnem sim ti v Kiyev stupay...

**Ratmir, Finn**

Stradanyam nastupit konets...  
I radost obnimet vesyolikh gostey!

**Finn**

Idi zhe na Kiyev, moy vityaz,  
skorey!

**Ratmir, Finn**

Na Kiyev skorey!  
(*Ukhodyat.*)

**No. 27 Final**

*Gridnitsa. V glubine na visokom bogato  
ubrannom lozhe pokoitsya spyashchaya  
Lyudmila. Krugom Svetozar, Farlaf, pridvorniye,  
senniye devushki, nyani, mamki, otroki, gridni,  
druzhina i narod. Pozadi voyenniḡ orkestr.*

**Khor**

- 14 Akh ti, svet Lyudmila,  
probudis, proсныisa!  
Akh ti, svet-knyazhna,  
probudis, proсныis!  
Akh, zachem vi, ochi golubiye,  
zvyozdochkoy paduchey,  
na zare rumyanoy, na tosku,  
na gore rano zakatilis?  
Akh, svet Lyudmila! Ti probudisya!  
Akh, zachem vi,  
ochi yasni, zakatilis?

This ring will rouse the princess from her sleep,  
she shall awaken to joy once more,  
and be as lively and pretty as before.

**Ratmir**

With an implicit faith I shall take the ring to Kiev  
and deliver it to Ruslan with hope.  
This ring will rouse the princess from her sleep.  
She shall awaken to joy once more  
and shine with her former beauty!

**Ratmir, Finn**

The end of our suffering is nigh,  
we shall forget past grief  
and the fresh wedding garland shall adorn the  
youthful brow of the princess.

**Ratmir**

With this ring I shall go to Kiev, etc.

**Finn**

Hasten to Kiev with this ring, etc.

**Ratmir, Finn**

The end of our suffering, etc.  
Joy shall enfold all the mirthful guests!

**Finn**

Go then, my knight,  
go quickly to Kiev!

**Ratmir, Finn**

Quickly to Kiev!  
(*They leave.*)

**No.27 Finale**

*Audience hall. At the back on a tall, richly  
adorned couch rests the sleeping Lyudmila.  
Around her are Svetozar, Farlaf, courtiers, hay  
maidens, nannies, wet-nurses, boys,  
bodyguards, retinue and the people. Behind is a  
military band.*

**Chorus**

Ah, darling Lyudmila,  
rouse yourself, wake up!  
Ah, darling princess,  
rouse yourself, wake up!  
Why have you closed so soon  
your blue eyes like shooting stars  
in a rosy dawn and brought us  
such anguish and grief?  
Ah, darling Lyudmila! Wake up!  
Ah, why have you closed  
your bright eyes?

Akh ti, svet Lyudmila!  
 Probudis, prosnysya!  
 Gore nam! Skorbniiy chas!  
 Kto prervyot son chudniy?  
 Kak divno, kak dolgo spit knyazhna!

**Svetozar**

Farlaf! Lyudmilī bezotvetniy  
 trup prinyos ti Svetozaru!  
 Vityaz, razbudi yeyo!  
 Otday mne doch!  
 Otday mne zhizn!

**Farlaf**

Vsyo izmenilo!  
 Obmanchivī charī Naini!  
 O, net! Lyudmila ne prosnyotsya!  
 I strakh i stīd vzglyanut na bednuyu knyazhnu.

**Khor**

Oy, Farlaf! Gore-bogatīr!  
 Razbudi knyazhnu slovom molodetskim!  
 Ne prosnyotsya ptichka utrom,  
 yesli solntsa ne uvidit;  
 ne prosnyotsya, ne ochnyotsya,  
 zvonkoy pesnyu ne zalyotsya!  
 Akh, Lyudmila, ne mogila vzyat tebya dolzhna,  
 milaya knyazhna!

**Svetozar**

Mogila! Grob! Kakiye pesni!  
 Uzheli vechen uzhasniy son?

**Farlaf**

I strakh i stīd glydyat mne v ochi!  
 Naina, szhalsya, Farlaf pogib!

**Khor**

Vo khram bogov speshi, nash knyaz,  
 nesi i zhertvi, i molbi  
 Verkhovniy gnev otssa bogov  
 postignet charodeyev.  
 Ne prosnyotsya ptichka utrom...

**Svetozar**

Mogila! Grob!...

**Farlaf**

I strakh i stīd glydyat mne v ochi!...

**Khor**

Vo khram bogov speshi, nash knyaz...

Ah, darling Lyudmila!  
 rouse yourself, wake up!  
 Woe is us! It is a mournful hour!  
 Who can break this wondrous sleep?  
 How miraculous that the princess sleeps so  
 long!

**Svetozar**

Farlaf! You have brought Svetozar  
 Lyudmila's mute corpse!  
 Knight, awaken her!  
 Give me back my daughter,  
 give me back my life!

**Farlaf**

Everything has changed!  
 Naina's spells have deceived me!  
 Oh no, Lyudmila will not awaken!  
 I feel fear and shame to look upon the poor  
 princess.

**Chorus**

O Farlaf! Knight of woe!  
 Awaken the princess with your valorous word!  
 The little bird will not awaken in the morning  
 if she does not see the sun;  
 she will not awaken, she will not come to her  
 senses,  
 and her singing will not ring forth!  
 Ah, Lyudmila, the grave must not claim you,  
 sweet princess!

**Svetozar**

The grave, the tomb! What songs are these!  
 Can it be that her terrible sleep is eternal?

**Farlaf**

Fear and shame look me in the eyes!  
 Naina, take pity, Farlaf is doomed!

**Chorus**

Our prince, hasten to the temple of the gods,  
 offer up sacrifices and prayers!  
 The supreme anger of the father of the gods  
 shall overcome sorcerers.  
 The little bird will not awaken, etc.

**Svetozar**

The grave, the tomb, etc.

**Farlaf**

Fear and shame, etc.

**Chorus**

Our prince, hasten to the temple, etc.

Akh, Lyudmila! Ne mogila,  
vityaz molodoy son narushit tvoy!

*(Slizhno priblizheniye vsadnikov.)*

15 Kovo nam bogi shlyut?  
Kakuyu vest uslishim mi?

*(Vkhodit Ruslan.)*

Ruslan? O radost!

**Svetozar**

Ruslan? O radost!

**Farlaf**

*(skrivayas)*

Ruslan? O, uzhas!

*(Ruslan podkhodit k spyashchey Lyudmile s volshebniim perstnem.)*

**Ruslan**

Radost, schastye yasnoye,  
i vostorg lyubvi...

**Khor**

Chto budet s neyu?

**Ruslan**

... snova vozvrashchayutsya,  
miliiy, nezhniiy drug!

**Khor**

Chto budet s neyu!

**Ruslan**

Kak tuman rasseyetsya razluki zloy  
bezvremenyey...  
Prosnis, prosnis,  
prekrasnaya, na radost vsem!

**Lyudmila**

*(Vpolgolosa yeshchyo kak bi skvoz son.)*

Radost, schastye yasnoye  
i vostorg lyubvi...

**Gorislava, Ratmir, Svetozar**

Vot ozhivayet!

**Lyudmila**

... snova vozvrashchayutsya.  
Miliiy, nezhniiy drug!

Ah, Lyudmila, the grave must not claim you,  
the young knight will rouse you from your  
sleep!

*(the sound of approaching horsemen)*

Whom do the gods send to us?  
What news shall we hear?

*(Enter Ruslan.)*

Ruslan? O joy!

**Svetozar**

Ruslan? O joy!

**Farlaf**

*(hiding)*

Ruslan? O horror!

*(Ruslan approaches the sleeping Lyudmila with the magic ring.)*

**Ruslan**

Joy, unclouded happiness,  
and the transports of love...

**Chorus**

What will happen to her?

**Ruslan**

... will be returned to you,  
my tender beloved!

**Chorus**

What will happen to her?

**Ruslan**

The time of our wicked separation  
shall evaporate like mist...  
Wake up, wake up, fair bride,  
for the joy of everyone!

**Lyudmila**

*(whispering as if through sleep)*

Joy, unclouded happiness  
and the transports of love...

**Gorislava, Ratmir, Svetozar**

She is coming back to life!

**Lyudmila**

... will be returned to you,  
my tender beloved!

**Gorislava, Ratmir, Ruslan, Svetozar**

Vot ozhivayet!

**Lyudmila**

Kak tuman, rassipletsya razluki zloy  
bezvremenyey!

*(Probuzhdayetsya.)*

Akh! Gde ya? Chto so mnoy?

Radost, miliy drug!

**Khor**

Skol sladok svidanya chas

yunoy radostnoy cheti!

Slava Lelyu, slava! Ladu i bogam!

**Gorislava, Ratmir, Ruslan, Svetozar**

Slava Lelyu, slava!

**Lyudmila**

Akh, to bil tyagostniy son!

Miliy mne vozvrashchyon!

I druzya, i otets...

Razluke konets!

*(Na stsene poyavlyayutsya svetliye oblaka.)*

**Gorislava, Ratmir**

O, moguchiy Finn!

Sbilysya torzhestvenniy tvoy obet!

**Ruslan**

Moguchiy Finn! Vsyo sovershilos!

Velik, slaven moguchiy Finn!

Pobedil Nainu!

**Svetozar**

Slava nebesam! Vsyo sovershilos!

Moguchiy Finn!

**Lyudmila**

Razluke konets!

**Khor**

O, chudo! Chto budet?

**Gorislava, Ratmir, Ruslan**

Velik, slaven moguchiy Finn!

Pobedil Nainu moguchiy Finn!

**Lyudmila**

Radost v serdtse lyotsya

rayskoy struyoy!

Vesyolye zaryoy snova nam svetit!

**Gorislava, Ratmir, Svetozar, Ruslan**

She is coming back to life!

**Lyudmila**

The time of our wicked separation  
shall evaporate like mist...

*(She wakes up.)*

Ah, Where am I? What has happened to me?

O joy, my beloved husband!

**Chorus**

How sweet is the hour of meeting

for a young, joyful couple!

Glory to Lel, glory! To Lad and the gods!

**Gorislava, Ratmir, Ruslan, Svetozar**

Glory to Lel, glory!

**Lyudmila**

Ah, that was an oppressive dream!

I have my beloved back!

And my friends and my father...

That is an end to parting!

*(Radiant clouds appear.)*

**Gorislava, Ratmir**

O mighty Finn!

Your solemn vow has come true!

**Ruslan**

Mighty Finn! All has been accomplished!

Great and glorious is the mighty Finn!

He has defeated Naina!

**Svetozar**

Glory to the heavens! All has been accomplished!

Mighty Finn!

**Lyudmila**

An end!

**Chorus**

O wonder! What will happen?

**Gorislava, Ratmir, Ruslan**

Great and glorious is the mighty Finn!

He has defeated Naina!

**Lyudmila**

The joy in my heart flows out

in a heavenly stream!

Mirth again brightens us with its dawn!

**Gorislava, Ratmir, Ruslan, Svetozar**

Ray v ustakh, v litse,  
v rechakh i svetit i igrayet.

**Lyudmila**

Akh, to bil tyagostniy son!  
Miliy mne vozvrashchyon,  
ti so mnoy, moy otets,  
razluke konets!  
Slaven Finn!

**Khor**

Chto yeshchyo nas zhdyot v torzhestvenniy  
sey den!  
Chto nas zhdyot? Chto zhdyot?

**Gorislava, Ratmir**

O, moguchiy Finn!  
Sbilsya torzhestvenniy tvoy obet!

**Ruslan, Svetozar**

Finn moguchiy! Vsyo sovershilos!

**Gorislava, Ratmir, Ruslan, Svetozar**

Slaven moguchiy Finn!

*(Khor i orkestr vikhodyat na avanstsenu. Zanavesi gridnitsi raskidivayutsya. Vdali vidno drevniy Kiyev. Narod radostno stremitsya k knyazyu.)*

**Khor**

16 Slava velikim bogam!  
Slava otchizne svyatoy!  
Slava Ruslanu s knyazhnoy!  
Da protsvetayet v polnoy sile i krase  
milaya serdtsu yunaya cheta!  
Da vossiyayet slavoy, schastiyem zemnim  
nasha otchizna v pozdniye veka!  
Bogi, moguচেy dlanyu khranite  
v mire i schasti vernikh sinov,  
i pust ne posmeyet khishchniy, lyutiy vrag  
na nashikh potomkov vosstat!  
Radost ni ne bogi dali nam!

**Ratmir**

Radost i utekhi chistoy lyubovi  
s vami budut vechno, druzya!  
Vi zhe ne zabudte vashevo druga:  
s vami on dushoy vseгда!

**Gorislava, Ratmir**

Zhizn struyoy igrivoy promelknyot!  
Zloye gore mesta ne naydyot!

**Gorislava, Ratmir, Ruslan, Svetozar**

Paradise plays upon her lips, her face,  
and in her words, brightening her up.

**Lyudmila**

Ah, that was a oppressive dream!  
I have my beloved back!  
And my friends and my father...  
That is an end to parting!  
Mighty Finn!

**Chorus**

What else awaits us on this solemn day!  
What awaits us? What awaits us?

**Gorislava, Ratmir**

O mighty Finn!  
Your solemn vow has come true!

**Ruslan, Svetozar**

Mighty Finn! All has been accomplished!

**Gorislava, Ratmir, Ruslan, Svetozar**

Glorious is the mighty Finn!

*(The chorus and band advance to the proscenium. The curtains of the audience hall are thrown back. In the distance ancient Kiev can be seen. The people joyfully rush towards the prince.)*

**Chorus**

Glory to the great gods!  
Glory to our sacred homeland!  
Glory to Ruslan and his princess!  
Let the young couple who are dear to our hearts  
flourish in all power and beauty!  
Let our homeland begin to shine with glory  
and earthly happiness in later centuries!  
Gods, with your mighty hand,  
keep your faithful sons in peace and happiness,  
do not allow our bitter and predatory enemies  
to dare rise up against our descendants!  
Now the gods have given us joy!

**Ratmir**

Let the joy and the pleasures of pure love  
be with you always, dear friends!  
Do not forget your beloved,  
he is always with you, heart and soul!

**Gorislava, Ratmir**

Life shall flash by as a playful stream!  
Wicked grief shall find no place!

Pust pamyat skorbnikh dney  
budet mechttoy!  
Pust pamyat skorbnikh dney  
budet mechttoy!  
Pust pamyat gorya  
budet vam mechttoy!

**Khor**

Da protsvetayet v polnoy sile i krase...

**Gorislava**

Radost i utekhi chistoy lyubovi...

**Ratmir**

Radost lyubvi vash udel,  
no nas ne zabudte, druzya!

**Gorislava, Ratmir**

Zhizn struyoy igrivoy promelknyot...

**Khor**

Slava velikim bogam!  
Slava otchizne svyatoy!  
Slava Ruslanu s knyazhnoy!  
Da promchatsya zvuki slavi, kray rodimiy,  
v otdalyonniye strani, v otdalyonniye strani!  
Da protsvetayet v sile i krase  
nash kray rodimiy v vechni vremena!  
Khishchniy lyutiyy vrag!  
Strashis mogushchestva yevo!  
I na vsej na zemle  
osenit otchiy kray.  
Slava! Slava! Slava!

*Transliteration Luis Sundkvist*

Let the memory of mournful days  
be a dream!  
Let the memory of grief  
be but a dream for you!

**Chorus**

Let the young couple, *etc.*

**Gorislava**

Let the joy and the pleasures, *etc.*

**Ratmir**

The joys of love are your destiny,  
but do not forget us, my friends!

**Gorislava, Ratmir**

Life shall flash, *etc.*

**Chorus**

Glory to the great gods!  
Glory to our sacred homeland!  
Glory to Ruslan and his princess!  
Dear land, let the sounds of your glory race on  
to distant countries, to distant countries!  
May our dear land flourish  
in power and beauty for all time to come!  
Bitter and predatory enemies!  
Fear its power!  
Over the entire earth  
our homeland shall cast its shadow!  
Glory! Glory!

*Translation Philip Taylor*  
© 1996 Philips Classics Productions  
All rights reserved