

# MA YOFUS

This is one of the most famous of klezmer tunes. Besides this title of *How Beautiful* it can be heard under such names as *Reb Dovidl Nigun* (*Rabbi David's Tune*), *Der Rebbe Hut Gehesen Freylakh Sein* (*The Rabbi Has Asked Us to Make Merry*), and *Tanz Yidelakh* (*Dance, Little Jew*). It is currently available by various performers on "Klezmer Music" (Folklyric 9034), "Klezmer Pioneers" (Rounder 1089), Andy Statman and David Grisman's "Songs of Our Fathers" (Acoustic Disc 14) and "Abe Schwartz" (Global Village 126).

The lyrics for "Der Rebbe Hut Geheysen Freylakh Sein", translated from Yiddish, are something like:

"The Rabbi is making merry,  
Drinking schnaps not wine".

I learned this melody from Alan Kaufman, a member of perhaps the immediate precursor of the klezmer revival, "Way of the World". (This was also the only band ever to use a Hawaiian guitar on such music.) He was about to perform it as his entry in an old time fiddle contest. Needless to say, he did not place.

Compare this with the Ukrainian version in the chapter on "Related Genres of Music". This tune is also played in the keys of E and A.

$\text{♩} = 112-126$

1 1 D Gm D Gm D

6 Gm<sub>tr</sub> D Cm D 2 B $\flat$  F7

11 B $\flat$  Gm D

16 3 D<sub>tr</sub> Gm D<sub>tr</sub>

21 Gm D<sub>tr</sub> Gm D Cm D

26 3' Gm (Cm) D Gm D tr

30 Gm (Cm) D Cm D