

BETLER LID (BEGGAR'S SONG)

(likely) composed by Abe Ellstein and Itsik Manger
from the film Yidl Mitn Fidl

Oy, hert zikh ayn, mayne libe mentshn.

Oy, hert zikh ayn atsinder tsu mayn troyerik lidl.

Fun vanen nemt zikh – zog mir – aza groyser veytik

In aza kleynem, kleynem fidl?

Ikh ken aykh zogn, mayne libe mentshn.

Ikh ken aykh zogn – zingen – ale in ayer oyer.

Der fidl veyst di dolye fun dem klezmer...

Zayn vunder, zayn vogl, zayn troyer.

Translation:

Oh, listen to me, my dear people.

Pay attention to my sad song.

Tell me – how is it that so much sadness can come from such a tiny fiddle?

I'll tell you the answer – I'll sing it right into your ear:

The fiddle knows the fate of the klezmer – his wonder, his wanderings, his sadness.