Lullaby

Alla (lullaby) is a soothing cradle songs, which is sung when the child is put to go to sleep in the cradle. It is through the lullaby that mothers express their emotions and love by singing them out softly and rocking the cradle gently. It is also through the alla that mothers express their well wishes for the future of the child and prayers of blessing for a child to grow strong and be a honorable person with profession, job and great health and wealth.

The song of Alla in Tajik is composed of variety pieces taken from quatrains, couplets or masnavi. Mothers compose their own alla although some are created by grandmothers of even elder sisters in the child's family. Alla songs are passed generation by generation and acquire folklore nature. Sometimes mother's in alla songs add their own child's name or change certain words to make it personalized, which gives rise to a totally new alla song.

**Hey alla, darling alla**

Hey alla, darling alla,
My sweet-tongued alla,
O comfort of my soul alla.
May your bad fortune struck me to spare you,
Alla, alla.

May you grow and may you be active,
May you become intelligent and wise,
May you become my support,
May you be patient and strong,
May you be my aid at the old age,
Alla, alla.