Naqš and naqšxonī

Naqš is a type of wedding song that is performed by the groom’s friends during the wedding procession. Naqšxonī that is performing a naqš singing is popular in Sughd region of Tajikistan and consist of three types: big naqš, middle naqš and small naqš. The naqš singing is current in Isfara, Konibodom, Khujand, Istaravshan and Mastcoh regions of the Sughd province. Naqš singing is also performed during the spring festivals in Navruz and Sayri Lola festivals. The naqš singing performed in the weddings is called naqši šam’ (candle naqš) and is sung during the wedding by a lead singer and the group back-singers. The core of this naqš is based on the traditional folklore quatrains and couplets on the wedding, happiness and love themes.

For example:
Lead singer: We are going to far road.
Back singers: Yor-yor-yore.
Lead singer: We brought a flower.
Back singers: Yor-yor-yore.
Lead singer: Where should we plant this flower?
Back singers: Yor-yor-yore.
Lead singer: In the Mirzogul garden.
Back singers: Yor-yor-yore.

Other form of this song is Naqši mullo that is has very jolly tune and is sung during the wedding celebrations.

No flower garden, no flower no garden.
Who can pluck a flower from the garden?
There is news that just was announced,
Don't you know about it?

During the wedding celebration naqš is performed in the yard of the groom by his friends and may last for some hours before, during or after the wedding.

The term naqš was first used in the treatise of the musicologists of the 14th century Abdul Qadir Maroghai and later in Kavkabi Bukhori in the 16th century. There is however another form of the singing also known as naqš which is structures primarily by the folk quatrains.