

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 Mastčoh 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.

