

This is the English version of the song Dona Dona that is available in Hebrew and Yiddish on this site. (search for Dona) Originally a Yiddish song, but made popular in the 60s by Joan Baez's English version . . . Translation of the Yiddish song "Dos Kelbl", decrying the condition of Russian Jews pogroms in the early part of the 20th century.

Donna Donna (Dona Dona) –

On a wagon bound for market - There's a calf with a mournful eye –
High above him there's a swallow - Winging swiftly through the sky

Refrain:

How the winds are laughing - They laugh with all their might
Laugh and laugh the whole day through - And half the summer's night
Donna donna donna donna, donna donna donna don,
donna donna donna donna, donna donna donna don

Stop complaining said the farmer
"Who told you a calf to be
Why don't you have wings to fly with
Like the swallow so proud and free?"

Refrain

Calves are easily bound and slaughtered
Never knowing the reason why
But whoever treasures freedom
Like the swallow has learned to fly

Refrain

composer S. Secunda

Egel rach kashur bechevel
Al ha'agala mutal
Ulemala bashamayim
Efronim mamri-im el al
Ruach stav tzocek lo
Tzocek umit-holel
Tzchok ootzchok miboker or
Ve'ad chatzi haleyl
Dona dona,-- dona dona dona do-ona
Dona dona dona do
Dona dona dona do-ona
Dona dona dona do...
"Al teetlonen" omer ikar
Leehyot egel mee l'cha amar?
Lamah ayn l'cha knafayim
C'mo efron chofshi v'nehedar?
Ruach stav tzocek lo
Tzocek oomitholel
Tchak utzchak miboker or
Ve-ad chatzi haleyl
Agalim Bli Da'at Lama
El hatevach hochlim tamid
Va'asher libam lachofesh
Mamri-im ke-efronim
Ruach Stav Tzocek lo
Tzocek umit-holel
Tzchok ootzchok miboker or
Ve-ad chatzi haleyl
Dona chorus