

# ONCE UPON A TOWN...

אמאל אין א שטעטל

by **BEN BONUS**

Cavalcade of life in the shtetel through song



**FAMOUS  
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# ONCE UPON A TOWN...

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Cavalcade of life in the shtetel through song

*With his first recorded concert "Sing Main Folk" (1917) the noted actor-singer Ben Bonus has acquired a whole new audience of devoted admirers.*

*"Famous Records" has the honor to invite you to Ben Bonus' second concert, "Once Upon A Town".*

1. Rom Tchi Rim Tchi.
2. Let's be happy  
And play a song  
In honor of the bride-groom  
And his party.
3. Near the stove sits a girl,  
Embroidering a pure white dress.  
Suddenly a boy comes by  
And pulls the thread away.
4. In a poor little house  
Evenings by the fire  
A loving mother spins  
Dreams for her child.
5. He who possesses a trade  
possesses a kingdom.
6. Arise, Arise  
To pay homage to God.
7. Let's make our own song  
About a Jew, a blacksmith  
In his smithy.
8. The mistress is coming into the shop,  
Boys, be quiet and do your work.
9. On the attic lies the roof  
Sleeping snugly under shingles.  
And in the crib the child lies bare,  
Naked, without swaddling clothes.
10. A shepherd, a dreamer  
Liked to look at the sky,  
And did not see the wolves  
Devouring his flock.
11. Chassidim are dancing and singing —  
Away with melancholy!
12. Once upon a time  
There was a little town  
And suddenly there came a holocaust  
And this little town with all its people  
And all the people of all the towns—  
An entire people — were  
extinguished,  
Annihilated in the Nazi crematoriums  
and gas chambers.  
  
But—  
Never say that you have reached  
the very end,  
The leaden skies a bitter future  
may portend  
Because the hour for which we  
yearned will yet arrive  
And our marching steps will thunder:  
"We Survive!"

**ONCE UPON A TOWN**  
*(Jewish way of life in a small town as seen through folk and art songs and presented by Ben Bonus). There was once a little town where many kabtzonim (paupers) lived. The richest poor man of the Shtetl was marrying off his one and only daughter. He invited all the paupers and the best musicians and asked them to play this song:*

**א מ א ל א ין א ש ט ע ט ע ל ע**  
(אידיש שטייגער-לעבן פון א שטעטל  
דורך פאלק און דיכטער לידער)  
— צוזאמענגעשטעלט און געזונגען פון בען באָנוס —

**SIDE I.**

1. ROM TCHI RIM TCHI ..... Folksong
2. LET'S BE HAPPY... Based on M. M. Warshavsky
3. NEAR THE STOVE..... In Folksong Style
4. IN A POOR LITTLE HOUSE..... J. Korman  
Music — M. Gelbart
5. SONG OF THE CRAFTSMAN Zelik Barditshever
6. ARISE TO PAY HOMAGE TO GOD —  
J. Jonasowich, Leo Weiner

**ז י י ט 1**

1. ראַמטשערימטשי פאלקסליד
2. מחותנים לויט מ. מ. ווארשאַווסקי
3. אויפן אווון פאלקלאַריזירט ליד
4. אין אַן אַרעם שטיבעלע י. קארמאַן  
מוזיק — מ. געלבאַרט
5. מלאכה—מלוכה זעליק באַרדיטשעווער
6. לעבודת הבורא י. יאַנאַסאָוויטש  
מוזיק — לעאָ וויינער

**SIDE II.**

7. THE JEWISH BLACKSMITH..... Wolf Younin,  
Vladimir Heifetz
8. IN A TAILOR SHOP ..... Folksong
9. ON THE ATTIC SLEEPS THE ROOF —  
B. Shapir, Peretz Hirshbein
10. A SHEPHERD, A DREAMER..... Z. Weinper,  
Rapaport
11. CHASSIDIM ARE DANCING ..... J. Kolodni
12. ONCE UPON A TIME..... Music: Lazar Weiner,  
D. Pokras, M. Rauch, H. Glick

**ז י י ט 2**

7. א ייד — א שמיד וואָלף יונין  
מוזיק — וויליאַדימיר חפץ
8. דוניי, דוניי פאלקליד
9. אויף דעם בוידעם שלאָפט דער דאָך ב. שאַפיר  
מוזיק — פרץ הירשביין
10. אַ פאַסטעכל אַ טרוימער ז. וויינפער  
מוזיק — ראַפאַפּאָרט
11. חסידימלעך טאַנצן י. קאָלאַדני
12. אויף יענער זייט ים געבויט אויף דער מוזיק  
פון: לאַזאַר וויינער, ד. פּאַקראַס, מ. ראָוד  
טיילווייזער טעקסט פון הירש גליקס  
פאַרטיאָנאַנער-ליד.