

Lulaby

Alla (lullaby) is a soothing cradlesongs, 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.

Alla songs have their own specific tune and it is possible to assert that children get to know song and singing for the first time through the *alla*. The tune for *alla* is synchronized to the rocking of the cradle.

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*.

