

GIINGOO, THE SONG OF THE HORSE-JOCKEYS



Organizing and enjoying horse races is an important part of the annual Mongolian festivals. Horse races are a unique tradition involving horses and jockeys. The tradition includes singing a long song before and after the race horses, reciting titles for the first five horses, and singing jockey songs meant to encourage and relax the horses before the race. In general, the jockey songs are like anthems for the jockeys. When chanting a jockey song, the word '*gijngoo*' is melodiously uttered and sung like a song with great cheer. Researchers note that these songs share similar features with *urtiin duu* songs. The *gijngoo* songs use a very unique melody that links humans and their horses, and helps for them to understand and to cooperate with each other. When a good chanter sings a jockey song, not only his horse gets encouraged, but so do the people and other animals in the vicinity become encouraged.



"Giingoo" Illustrated by Ya.Oyunchimeg