

associated with holidays and other special contexts. All questionnaires were prepared in Yiddish, since all the interviews were conducted in Yiddish. The original Yiddish questionnaire is available on request by writing to the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, 1048 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10028.

Note: Separate forms are filled out for (a) the personal histories of the singer and interviewer; and (b) the tape used for recording the interview.

1. Date, names of singer and interviewer.
2. How was the song elicited? Spontaneously? Was the song prompted? Was a line or stanza read, and if so, from what?
3. Title(s) of song according to the singer? First line of song? Title according to interviewer?
4. Are there additional lines? Stanzas? Sections? Sing them and explain where they belong. If there are additional lines, why did you not sing them? Forgotten? Other reasons?
5. Did you add or change anything? Words? Lines? Stanzas? Melody? If yes, did you make up the additions? Take them from other songs? Indicate precisely which parts were added and which songs they were taken from. Why did you make the changes? Do you always sing this song in its changed form? Explain.
6. Languages: Yiddish, *Loshn-koydesh* (liturgical Hebrew), Modern Hebrew, English, German, East European language (specify), other.

7. When did you hear this song for the first time? Year? Place? Occasion? Who was there? Who sang the song? (Name, relationship to you, year born, where did s/he grow up, occupation, where did s/he learn song?) Printed source? Mass media: record, radio, television, film? Theater: name of play? Did you see it? Troupe? Actor/actress? Role?

8. Did you begin to sing the song immediately after you heard it? If not, why not? Do you recall the details regarding the first time you sang the song? When? Where? Occasion? For whom? Is this a song that you have sung continuously until the present day? Was there a time when you stopped singing this song? Explain. After you stopped singing, did you begin singing the song again?

When? Where? Occasion? For whom? Why?

9. On which occasions did/do you usually sing this song? Describe them. When else would it be appropriate or not appropriate to sing this song? Explain.

10. Where and when was this song popular/well known? (Ask according to each location where singer lived.) Where and when was this song not popular/well known? Did you personally hear this song sung often by others? Explain where, when, occasion, etc. Did everyone sing this song or only some people? Where, when, occasion? Men, women, boys, girls, small children, workers, political movements, Hasidim (which ones?) others? Who used to make a special request for you to sing this song? Name? Relationship to you? Where is s/he from? Occupation? Year born? Who learned this song from you? Name? Relationship to you? Where is s/he from? Occupation? Year born? Who else especially liked to sing this song? Occupation? Year born?

11. How old is this song? Is this song considered a new, old, or very old song?

12. Do you know other tunes to the words? Sing them. Do you know other words to the tune? Sing them. Is this song also sung in other languages? Sing and explain. (Are the two languages combined in one singing? Alternating stanzas?)

13. What kind of song is this? Note singer's spontaneous response. Interviewer's category? Prompt according to following: a) folksong/theatre song/lit-
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Documenting a Song and Its Performance: A Questionnaire for Use by the Yiddish Song-Zamler

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This questionnaire was originally designed in Yiddish as part of a project entitled *East European Jewish Folksong in its Social Context: An Analysis of the Social Systematization of Folksong Performance*.

Many other questionnaires were designed for the project to document the life of the singer as a musical specialist, the singer's musical concepts, taboos surrounding singing, and musical behavior



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DOCUMENTING A SONG AND ITS PERFORMANCE

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erary, art, or classical song/*badkhones* (wedding jester's song)/cantorial/street song; b) *zmire* (table song)/*nign* (tune without words)/*tkhine* (prayer for women)/*brokhe* (blessing)/*tfile* (prayer)/other; c) sabbath/holiday (which one?); d) life cycle: circumcision/wedding/funeral lament/other; e) social circles: hasidim (which ones?)/*misnagdim* (orthodox opponents of Hasidism)/*maskilim* (adherents of the Jewish Enlightenment)/learned people/*kheyder* (Jewish primary school)/*yeshivah*/artisans/other; f) political movements: Zionist/Bundist/*Agude*/other; g) family life: love song/orphan song/ grass widow (*agune*) song/stepmother song/other; h) historical song: war/pogrom/catastrophe/famous person/recruits/cantonists/prisoners/emigration/other—do you know any stories (legends) about the subject of this song? Are they true? When did the events occur?; i) satirical song: who is making fun of whom and what?; j) other: riddle song/ drinking song/dance song/lullaby/children's song/other.

14. How does this song make you feel? What feelings do the words/melody call forth?

15. Do you like this song better than other songs? Is it one of your favorite songs— Why? Which do you like better: the words or the music? Why?

16. Do you think that the melody is a Jewish one? Explain.

17. Did the events in the song actually happen? Could such events have happened? Explain.

18. Can anything be learned from the song? Explain. Do you agree with the song?

19. Does the song remind you of particular moments in your own life (events, people, places, etc.)?

20. Are you aware of a source (printed or other) for this song? Collector should make own annotation from existing collections.

21. Collector should evaluate this performance of the song. Was singer fatigued, for example?

22. Observations: Did singer sit or stand? Was anyone else present? Other distractions?

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