

SAVAS ACIS IZRAUDĀJ'

The calm beginning of this Latvian singing game belies the excitement of the second half. This comes from Zinta Pone. Born into a Latvian speaking family in Minneapolis, Zinta first learned English when she went to kindergarten!

Sa - vas a - cis iz - rau - dāj' tē - va cū - kas ga - nī - dam(s).
So it hap - pened all last year, so it goes a - gain this year!

Tā - tas bi - ja pērn - ru - den, tā - tas a - ri šo - ru - den!

Pronunciation:

Sah-vahs ah-tsees eez-rahw dai, tay-vah
tsoo-kahs- gah-nee-dahm(s).

Chorus: Tah-tahs bee-yah-pahrn-roo-dehn,
tah-tahs ah-ree- shoh-roo-den.

Pahl-dee-ehs sah-koo vee-el-tsee-nyam, kah
pah vee-yeh-nai proh-yaim nahs.

New ear laiks Ree-gah braoukt, oohn pa ee-
eh-lam pahs tai-gaht.

Ooh-rah, ooh-rah vee-see saouts, oohn pa
teel-too pah-ree braouts.

Translation:

I cried as I was herding pigs.

Chorus: That's how it was last fall, it's like
that again this fall.

I say "Thank you," to the wolf for taking
them (the pigs) away one at a time.

Now it's time to go to Riga and walk in the
streets

Hooray, Hooray, everyone's shouting and
they're driving across the bridges.

Directions:

Players stand in two lines, with partners opposite. One (or more) extra player(s) stands at the end of the set nearest the head of the hall. While all players sing the first half of the song, the two lines go back four steps then forward. Repeat. While everyone sings the second half of the song, the players in the lines come forward to make a tunnel. The extra player(s) at the head of the set walk or run down beneath the tunnel reaching up and taking a partner at random from those forming the tunnel, and proceeding to the bottom of the set where they make an arch, adding to the tunnel. The person left partnerless by this theft then proceeds outside the circle to the top of the set then goes down the tunnel taking a partner as just described. This happens over and over with one or more people going down the tunnel all the time (the tunnel will need to steadily move up the set). When everyone tires of this action, sing the next first to the slower first half of the melody and so on...

Source: Collected March 1996 from Zinta Pone, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Zinta learned the game on a visit to Latvia.