

The Free Software Song

GNU philosophy

This song is in a rhythm of 7/8; those unaccustomed to odd rhythms often take the unevenness to be a mistake. The meter can be analyzed into three subgroups as slow-quick-quick or 3-2-2. Such meters in Bulgarian music can often be stretched, and some musicians analyze this song as 3-2-3 instead; however, the last “3” is not as long as the first. Yves Moreau, who collected and taught the dance, endorses the rhythm of 7.

Richard Stallman wrote the lyrics in 1991.

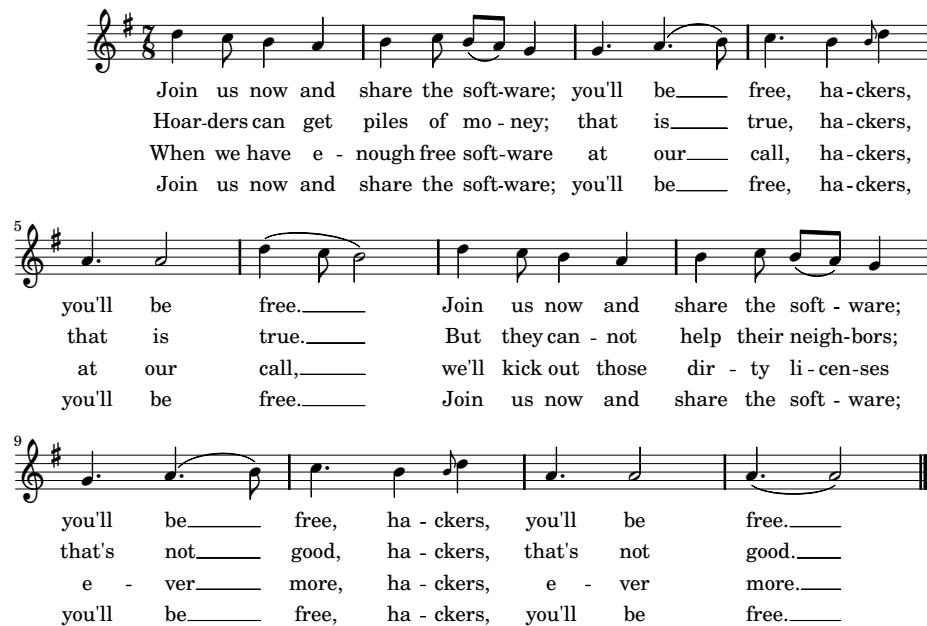
This document is part of GNU philosophy, the GNU Project’s exhaustive collection of articles and essays about free software and related matters.

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The lyrics of “The Free Software Song” are sung to the melody of the Bulgarian folk song “Sadi moma bela loza.” To listen to a recording of the piece accompanied by Bulgarian instruments played in traditional style, please visit <http://gnu.org/music/FreeSWSong.ogg>.



Join us now and share the soft-ware; you'll be free, ha-ckers,
 Hoar-ders can get piles of mo-ney; that is true, ha-ckers,
 When we have e-nough free soft-ware at our call, ha-ckers,
 Join us now and share the soft-ware; you'll be free, ha-ckers,

5 you'll be free. Join us now and share the soft-ware;
 that is true. But they can-not help their neigh-bors;
 at our call, we'll kick out those dir-ty li-cen-ses
 you'll be free. Join us now and share the soft-ware;

9 you'll be free, ha-ckers, you'll be free.
 that's not good, ha-ckers, that's not good.
 e-ver more, ha-ckers, e-ver more.
 you'll be free, ha-ckers, you'll be free.