Dragostea Din Tei

"Dragostea Din Tei" (pronounced ['dragostea din 'tej] (listen); Romanian for "Love from the Lindens"; official English title: "Words of Love"), [2][3] also informally known as "Maya Hi" and "Numa Numa" (see § Lyrics), is a song by Moldovan pop group O-Zone, released as the second single from their third studio album, DiscO-Zone (2004). It received positive reviews from critics and shot to the number-one spot on the Eurochart Hot 100 Singles, where it remained for 12 weeks between June and early September 2004. It topped the single charts in France, Germany and Austria for over three months, reached three in the United Kingdom and number 72 on the US Pop 100. The song became the fourth best-selling single of the 21st century in France, with 1.17 million units sold.

The original song was made notable in the United States via the <u>viral video</u> "Numa Numa" in which <u>vlogger</u> Gary Brolsma dances to the song. A remix entitled "Numa Numa 2" by <u>Dan Balan</u> (from O-Zone) featuring Marley Waters was posted on <u>YouTube</u> on 12 September 2018^[6] (not to be confused with a 2006 video by Brolsma of the same name but which is unrelated to "Dragostea Din Tei").

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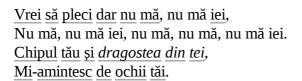
References

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O-Zone version

Lyrics

The best-known lyrics are the repeated line "nu mă, nu mă iei" from the chorus, hence the name "Numa Numa song". "Nu mă, nu mă iei" (literally "you don't, you don't take me") is typically translated as "you just won't take me". The full chorus, which also includes the title of the song, runs:





(You) want to leave but don't want to take me, Don't want to take me, don't want, don't want to take me Your face and the love from the linden trees, Remind me of your eyes.

Background and writing

The song was written and composed by <u>Dan Bălan</u>, and the original version was sung by Bălan, <u>Arsenie Todiraş</u>, and <u>Radu Sârbu</u>. The single was first released in 2003 in Romania, where the group lived and produced at that time, and in the spring of 2004 in most other European countries, where it became a <u>summer</u> hit. As late as 2006, the song was still in the lower reaches of some Eastern European singles charts.

O-Zone's version was the most popular across Europe, with the exception of Italy, where it was only known by discogoers. A cover version of the song performed by Romanian singer <u>Haiducii</u>, who released the song in Europe around the same time, was more popular in Italy and Sweden, where it topped the singles charts.

"Dragostea Din Tei" has also inspired a number of parody videos distributed over the Internet, most notably Gary Brolsma's popular "Numa Numa Dance" video in 2004, so named because of the line "nu mă nu mă iei". The "Numa Numa Dance", which first appeared on the flash site Newgrounds.com, has become so notable that it has sparked numerous parodies of the video itself in the United States over the years since 2004.



A still image from O-Zone's music video

Overall, the single reached number one in over 27 countries and went on to sell upwards of 8 million copies worldwide, making it one of the best-selling singles of all time. [9]

English-language version

The US, UK and Australian release of <u>DiscO-Zone</u> features an English version of the song performed by Dan Bălan and <u>Lucas Prata</u>. This version focuses on the "It's me, Picasso" lyric from the original to provide a theme of an artist who has lost his <u>muse</u>. Bălan and Prata performed the English recording of "Dragostea Din Tei" entitled "**Ma Ya Hi**" on <u>The Today Show</u> on 22 February 2005. Unlike the original recording, however, this version was not as successful, charting at 72 on the *Billboard* Pop 100.

Track listings

- CD single
- 1. "Dragostea Din Tei" (original Romanian version) 3:33
- 2. "Dragostea Din Tei" (DJ Ross radio RMX) 4:15
- CD maxi single
- 1. "Dragostea Din Tei" (original Romanian version) 3:33
- 2. "Dragostea Din Tei" (DJ Ross radio RMX) 4:15
- 3. "Dragostea Din Tei" (DJ Ross extended RMX) 6:22
- 4. "Dragostea Din Tei" (original Italian version) 3:35
- 5. "Dragostea Din Tei" (Unu' in the dub mix) 3:39

Charts

Weekly charts

Year-end charts

Chart (2003-2005)	Peak position
Austria (Ö3 Austria Top 40) ^[10]	1
Belgium (<u>Ultratop 50</u> Flanders) ^[11]	2
Belgium (<u>Ultratop 50</u> Wallonia) ^[12]	1
CIS (Tophit) ^[13]	23
Czech Republic (IFPI) ^[14]	2
Denmark (<u>Tracklisten</u>) ^[15]	1
Europe (Eurochart Hot 100 Singles) ^[16]	1
Finland (Suomen virallinen lista) ^[17]	2
France (SNEP) ^[18]	1
Germany (Official German Charts) ^[19]	1
Hungary (Rádiós Top 40) ^[20]	2
Hungary (Single Top 40) ^[21]	5
Hungary (Dance Top 40) ^[22]	3
Ireland (IRMA) ^[23]	1
Ireland Dance (IRMA) ^[24]	1
Italy (FIMI) ^[25]	17
Netherlands (Dutch Top 40) ^[26]	1
Netherlands (Single Top 100)[27]	1
Norway (VG-lista) ^[28]	1
Romania (Romanian Top 100) ^[29]	1
Scotland (OCC)[30]	2
Spain (PROMUSICAE)[31]	1
Sweden (Sverigetopplistan)[32]	3
Switzerland (Schweizer Hitparade) ^[33]	1
UK Singles (OCC)[34]	3
US Digital Song Sales (Billboard)[35]	69
US Dance/Mix Show Airplay (Billboard)[36]	14
US Pop 100 (Billboard)[37]	72

Chart (2004)	Position
Austria (Ö3 Austria Top 40)[38]	1
Belgium (Ultratop 50 Flanders)[39]	7
Belgium (Ultratop 50 Wallonia) ^[40]	1
CIS (Tophit) ^[41]	73
Europe (Eurochart Hot 100 Singles)[42]	1
France (SNEP) ^[43]	1
Germany (Official German Charts)[44]	1
Hungary (Rádiós Top 40) ^[45]	48
Ireland (IRMA) ^[46]	9
Netherlands (Dutch Top 40)[47]	1
Netherlands (Single Top 100)[48]	1
Sweden (Sverigetopplistan)[49]	15
Switzerland (Schweizer Hitparade) ^[50]	1
UK Singles (OCC)[51]	28

Decade-end charts

Chart (2000-2009)	Position
Germany (Official German Charts) ^[52]	3

Certifications

Region	Certification	Certified units/sales
Austria (IFPI Austria) ^[53]	Platinum	30,000*
Belgium (BEA) ^[54]	2× Platinum	100,000 [*]
Denmark (IFPI Denmark)[55]	Gold	4,000^
France (SNEP) ^[56]	Diamond	750,000 [*]
Germany (BVMI) ^[57]	2× Platinum	600,000^
Japan (RIAJ) ^[58] Ringtone	4× Million	4,000,000*^
Japan (RIAJ) ^[58] Full-length Ringtone	Platinum	250,000*^
Japan (RIAJ) ^[58] PC Download	Gold	100,000*^
Netherlands (NVPI)[59]	Platinum	60,000^
Sweden (GLF) ^[60]	Gold	10,000^
Switzerland (IFPI Switzerland)[61]	Platinum	40,000^
United States (RIAA) ^[62]	Gold	500,000 [^]

^{*} Sales figures based on certification alone.

Haiducii version

A cover version by Italian-Romanian singer <u>Haiducii</u>, with a strong dance impact, was charted at the same time as the original version by <u>O-Zone</u>. Although it had a great success in many countries, including Sweden, Austria and Italy, where it topped the chart, it was less successful than O-Zone's version.

Haiducii was later sued by O-Zone for copyright infringement, since she had neither obtained permission from O-Zone to record the single nor given due credit to Dan Bălan for being the original writer of the song. This resulted in Haiducii paying fees for copyright infringement.

Track listings

CD single

- 1. "Dragostea din tei" (original mix) 3:35
- 2. "Dragostea din tei" (Haiducii vs. Gabry Ponte radio version) 3:42
- 3. "Dragostea din tei" (DJ Ross 4 the radio RMX) 4:15
- 4. "Dragostea din tei" (Haiducii vs. Gabry Ponte extended version) 6:30



Single by Halducii		
B-side	Remixes + "Spring"	
Released	2004	
Genre	Electronic	
Length	3:33	
Label	Universo	
Songwriter(s)	<u>Dan Bălan</u>	

[^] Shipments figures based on certification alone.

5. "Dragostea din tei" (DJ Ross 4 The Club RMX) – 6:22

■ CD maxi single

- 1. "Dragostea din tei" (original mix) 3:33
- 2. "Dragostea din tei" (Haiducii vs Gabry Ponte radio version) 3:43
- 3. "Dragostea din tei" (DJ Ross 4 Radio Mix) 4:16
- 4. "Dragostea din tei" (Haiducii vs Gabry Ponte extended version) 6:32
- 5. "Dragostea din tei" (DJ Ross 4 club mix) 6:20
- 6. "Dragostea din tei" (Potatoheadz club mix) 6:58
- 7. "Spring" 7:16

Charts

Weekly charts

Chart (2004)	Peak position
Austria (Ö3 Austria Top 40) ^[63]	1
Belgium (<u>Ultratop 50</u> Flanders) ^[64]	5
Belgium (<u>Ultratop 50</u> Wallonia) ^[65]	2
Croatia (HRT) ^[66]	2
Denmark (<u>Tracklisten</u>)[67]	7
Europe (Eurochart Hot 100 Singles)[16]	2
France (SNEP) ^[68]	2
Germany (Official German Charts)[69]	2
Hungary (Single Top 40) ^[70]	5
Hungary (Dance Top 40) ^[71]	1
Italy (<u>FIMI</u>) ^[72]	1
Netherlands (Dutch Top 40)[73]	8
Netherlands (Single Top 100)[74]	4
Norway (VG-lista)[75]	4
Spain (PROMUSICAE)[76]	4
Sweden (Sverigetopplistan)[77]	1
Switzerland (Schweizer Hitparade) ^[78]	2

Year-end charts

Chart (2004)	Position
Austria (Ö3 Austria Top 40) ^[38]	3
Belgium (Ultratop Flanders) ^[39]	14
Belgium (Ultratop Wallonia) ^[40]	22
France (SNEP) ^[43]	39
Germany (Official German Charts)[44]	9
Italy (FIMI) ^[79]	3
Netherlands (Dutch Top 40)[47]	82
Netherlands (Single Top 100)[48]	28
Sweden (Sverigetopplistan) ^[49]	5
Switzerland (Schweizer Hitparade) ^[50]	9

Decade-end charts

Chart (2000-2009)	Position
Germany (Official German Charts) ^[80]	95

Certifications

Region	Certification	Certified units/sales
Austria (IFPI Austria)[81]	Gold	15,000 [*]
Belgium (BEA) ^[82]	Gold	25,000 [*]
France (SNEP) ^[83]	Silver	125,000 [*]
Sweden (GLF)[84]	Gold	10,000 [^]

Charting in other versions

"Ma cé ki? Massimo" by Massimo Gargia

Chart (2004)	Peak position
Belgium (<u>Ultratop 50</u> Wallonia) ^[85]	13
France (SNEP)[86]	9
Switzerland (Schweizer Hitparade) ^[87]	38

"Le Poulailler" by Le 6/9

Chart (2004)	Peak position
Belgium (<u>Ultratop 50</u> Wallonia) ^[88]	8
France (SNEP)[89]	2
Switzerland (Schweizer Hitparade) ^[90]	30

"Wenn der Hafer sticht" by Antonia aus Tirol

Chart (2004)	Peak position
Austria (Ö3 Austria Top 40) ^[91]	7
Germany (Official German Charts)[92]	90

"Argent Argent" by Cauet featuring Mopral

Chart (2004)	Peak position
France (SNEP) ^[93]	14

"Ma Ya Hi" by Jamatami

Chart (2011)	Peak position
Germany (Official German Charts)[94]	84

^{*} Sales figures based on certification alone.

^ Shipments figures based on certification alone.

Cover versions and derivative productions

Americas

- A popular video named "Numa Numa" originally posted on Newgrounds features a person named Gary Brolsma performing a lip-sync to the song while dancing. The video soon spread to other social media sites such as YouTube and went viral. Brolsma was named "#1 Internet Celebrity" on VH1's 40 Greatest Internet Superstars which aired on 23 March 2007. [95][96]
- American rapper <u>T.I.</u> samples the song in his 2008 single "<u>Live Your Life</u>" which features Rihanna.
- In 2011, <u>Hank Azaria</u> covered the song as the character "The Mighty Sven" for the animated film *Happy Feet Two*.
- <u>Uncle Moishy</u>, an <u>Orthodox Jewish</u> children's entertainer, has sung about healthy eating to the tune of the song.
- Robyn Adele Anderson released a cover recorded in a Romanian folk style on her YouTube channel in January 2020.
- Brazilian singer <u>Latino</u> released "<u>Festa no Apê</u>" in 2004, which became his signature song ever since. The lyrics are completely different, but the melody is the same as Dragostea Din Tei.

Europe

- The <u>Hungarian</u> comedy-music group <u>Irigy Hónaljmirigy</u> made a cover of the song with the title "Numerakirály". It is still considered as one of the most popular covers of theirs. [97]
- A spoof of the song was released by the <u>Romanian</u> metal band <u>Trooper</u> under the name of "Zorzon", as a bonus track on one of their albums.
- In Spain, the comedy duo Los Morancos de Triana, formed by brothers Jorge and Cesar Cadaval, made a spoof version called Marica tú (Marica tu without accent; "queer you" in English), also known as "Pluma gay" (Gay feather). It became a major radio hit in many countries in Latin America, particularly in Mexico, Chile, Colombia, Argentina, Venezuela, and Puerto Rico. In some of these countries, the song is more well-known than the original, whereby the original Dragostea Din Tei is often confused with this parody in Latin America, leading to controversy over a *Chicken Little* trailer in which the titular character dances to Dragostea Din Tei. The comedy duo occasionally addresses LGBT issues in their comedy routines. In this case, the comedy duo replaced the original lyrics with audaciously pro-gay lyrics in Spanish, more or less preserving the original Romanian rhyme in parts (an intentional sort of mondegreen or soramimi), and by doing such, transformed the song into an international gay anthem. The music video features a man who, after singing for a while, unleashes a stereotypical gay party, with smoke, lights, feathers, and male strippers, while advising the listener to come out of the closet. Dominican merengue singer Mala Fe recorded a merengue version of the song.
- Hungarian Minisztár released a Dragostea Din Tei music video in 2005.
- <u>Finnish</u> singer <u>Frederik</u> released a tongue-in-cheek cover called "Kumimies" in 2005. In his version, an unsavory suitor is trying to reach "little Maija", but mistakenly calls him (her father) instead.
- Portuguese Onda Choc released "Sem Drama Aguardarei" in 2006.
- <u>Russian</u> songs "Я её хой" by <u>Professor Lebedinsky</u> with <u>Russkiy Razmer</u> and "Эй, ди-джей, водочки налей" by DJ Slon.
- German group <u>ItaloBrothers</u> released a cover of "Dragostea Din Tei" named "<u>My Life Is a Party</u>" in 2012.

- Dan Balan recorded a track titled "Sugar Tunes" in 2006, which is a pop rock song that is based on the melody of Dragostea Din Tei.
- Austrian child singer Lisa Aberer performed a German cover of it at <u>Kiddy Contest</u> 2004 as "Unsichtbar" (Invisible).
- Dan Balan recorded a revised remixed version with some amended lyrics called "Numa Numa 2" in 2018 featuring additional vocals by Marley Waters and dancing by African Ugandan kids and youth. The music video was recorded in Uganda. [98]
- German singer "Frank Lars" covered a version called Nur Ma So? [99]

Asia

- In Israel, the song was translated and used as a theme song for the children's show Festigal.
- Also in Israel, the music was used by the subgroup of <u>Breslover Hasidim</u> known as <u>Na Nach</u>, who follow the teachings of Rabbi <u>Nachman of Breslov</u> according to the tradition of Rabbi <u>Yisroel Ber Odesser</u> (called the Saba, or grandfather, by Na Nachs). The sect's song in praise of Rabbi Nachman, titled "<u>Na Nach Nachma Nachman Meuman</u>," uses the music from the song "Dragostea Din Tei" for one its most well-known versions.
- An Indonesian version of this song was released by Indonesian group Barakatak with title "Buka-Bukaan" (Open and Open) in 2005 (on YouTube in 2008). The lyrics contain adult content, while the title itself refers to sexual activity.
- A <u>Singkawang</u> Hakka version of this song was sung by Jeff Hian with "Pantai Sedau" as the title. The lyrics contains an invitation to visit Singkawang beach. This song is a cover of <u>Bu Pa</u> Bu Pa
- There are also three versions sung in <u>Mandarin</u>: Singapore's <u>Jocie Kok</u> (郭美美) wrote "<u>Bu Pa</u> <u>Bu Pa</u>" (不怕不怕, "Not Afraid, Not Afraid"),^[100] Taiwan's <u>2moro</u> wrote "Shabu Shabu", and Elva Hsiao (蕭亞軒) wrote "Lian Ai Feng" (戀愛瘋, "Crazy Love").
- In South Korea, Hyun Young, a South Korean model/actress/singer, released a Korean version of the song, titled "누나의 꿈" (*Nuna-ui Kkum*; eng. *Sister's Dream*) which ranked among the top on various Korean charts in March 2006, within weeks from release. [101] The song preserves the "ma-ia-hii" and "nu mă, nu mă iei" choruses from the original; however, while the "ma-ia-hii" does not carry any meaning, but is merely used as a rhythmic interjection, the "nu mă iei" is approximated as "누나의" (nuna-ui, often pronounced nuna-e), which means "elder sister's".[102] "Noona" is also an affectionate title a South Korean man calls a woman who is older than he is. The lyrics of "Sister's Dream" are about a romance between a younger man and an older woman.
- In <u>Japan</u>, <u>Gille</u> sampled the "ma-ia-hii" chorus for her debut single "Girls". [103]
- In <u>Thailand</u>, Yai RedBeat (Thai:ใหญ่ เรดบิท) use this music in instrumental debut his song Oh-Jao-Nee. [104] (In Thai:โอ้เจ้าหนี้) (Meaning:Oh, creditor)
- A Japanese version of the song was released by comedian Maeda Ken on 24 August 2005 under the artist name Maeken Trance Project (his drag alter-ego), titled "Koi no Buchiage Tengoku: Koi no Maiahi~Chihuahua~Banzai [1] (http://www.jvcmusic.co.jp/maekentrance/)"(恋のブチアゲ 天国:恋のマイアヒ〜チワワ〜バンザイ, "Love's High Tension Paradise: Love's Maiahi~Chihuahua~Hurrah"), fusing the original song with popular Japanese Eurobeat song Banzai and part of the 2002 ad Coca-Cola commercial-related hit by DJ BoBo titled "Chihuahua". Although this is a Japanese release, the "Dragostea Din Tei" section of the medley is sung in Romanian.
- On 11 November 2005 another Japanese version under the same title "Koi no Maiahi" was released on the compilation album of Avex record label artists "Girl's Box ~Best Hits

Compilation Winter~" (AVCD-17769) by the singers Hasebe Yu (長谷部優) from girlgroup "dream", lwasaki Mai (岩崎舞), and Takimoto Miori (瀧本美織) both from girlgroup "SweetS". [2] (https://web.archive.org/web/20060130150439/http://avexnet.or.jp/girlsbox/) The group also did a nectar, kamehama-honey and crystal remix of this song.

■ In <u>Vietnam</u>, Vũ Hà translated and cover this song into Vietnamese as "The Mai-Ya-Hee Lover" (Vietnamese: *Người Tình Mai-Ya-Hee*) in 2007, although "Dragostea Din Tei" was popularized through pubs and bars in some cities.

Other

- "Numa Numa 2" with <u>Dan Balan</u> ft. Marley Waters was posted on Dan Balan's YouTube Channel on September 12, 2018. It includes vocals from Marley Waters in both Romanian and English, with newer Romanian vocals from Dan, while retaining the chorus from the original "Dragostea Din Tei".
- The Voice of Ukraine (Голос країни) season 9 contestant, Kateryna Begu, performed this song with a slow arrangement on blind auditions, with <u>Dan Balan</u> as one of the coaches. This performance resulted in four coaches turned their chairs, and after that, Dan Balan joined her on stage for duet singing with her. Their video is watched million times on <u>YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MoZDhrwE3J8).[105]</u>

See also

- List of best-selling singles in Japan
- List of Romanian Top 100 number ones of the 2000s

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External links

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This page was last edited on 9 March 2021, at 13:35 (UTC).

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