

# 孟姜女

## Mengjiang nü

*Ballad of Meng Jiang Nu*

Jiangsu Province, China



1. 春\_\_季\_\_里\_\_来 是 新\_\_春, 家\_\_家\_\_户\_\_户\_\_  
 Chun-ji\_\_ li\_\_ lai shi xin - chun, Jia - jia\_\_ hu - hu\_\_  
 New Year\_\_ is\_\_ here bring-ing\_\_ spring, At each door,\_\_ each\_\_ house



点\_\_红\_\_灯, 别\_\_人\_\_家 夫\_\_妻 团\_\_圆\_\_叙,\_\_  
 dian hong - deng, Bie ren jia fu - qi tuan - yuan\_\_ xu,\_\_  
 red\_lamps\_\_ swing, Warm lights shine, wives\_\_ smile hus - bands\_\_ home, -



孟\_\_姜\_\_女\_\_丈\_\_夫 去 造\_\_长\_\_城。  
 Meng - jiang nü\_\_ zhang - fu qu zao\_\_ chang - cheng.  
 At\_\_ the\_\_ Great\_\_ Wall\_\_ mine lays stone\_ on\_\_ stone.

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|--|--|---|
| 2. 夏季里来   热难当,<br>蚊子叮在   奴身上,<br>宁愿叮奴   千口血,<br>莫叮我夫   万喜良。    | 2. Xiaji li lai   re nan dang,<br>Wenzi ding zai   nü shen shang,<br>Ningyuan ding nu   qian kou xie,<br>Mo ding wo fu   Wan Xiliang.            | 2. Summer comes, brings sun   fierce and strong,<br>Out come mosquitoes   thousands throng,<br>Bite away all day   all night long,<br>But don't bite my love   Wan Xiliang.       |
| 3. 秋季里来   菊花黄,<br>丈夫一去   信渺茫,<br>终朝思夫   千万遍,<br>深夜不宿我   泪两行。   | 3. Qiuji li lai   juhua huang,<br>Zhangfu yi qu   xin miaomang,<br>Zhong zhao si fu   qian wan bian,<br>Shenye bu su wo   lei liang hang.        | 3. Yellow chrysanthemum   autumn flower,<br>Not one bird brings news   of my dear,<br>Night and day, I pray   full of fears,<br>No sleep all night   only tears.                  |
| 4. 冬季里来   雪花飞,<br>孟姜女千里来   送寒衣,<br>途中受尽   千般苦,<br>但愿夫妻要   两相依。 | 4. Dongji li lai   xuehua fei,<br>Mengjiang nü qianlilai   song hanyi,<br>Tu zhong shou jin   qian ban ku,<br>Danyuan fuqi yao   liang xiang yi. | 4. Winter, grey skies   snowflakes fly,<br>To the Great Wall, I must   find my way,<br>Warm clothes bring, to him   thousand miles,<br>To be with my love I'll   bear all trials. |

Mengjiang's husband has been sent away to help build the Great Wall. She sings of her loneliness in each of the four seasons in turn.

This is a pentatonic melody of great beauty which needs to be sung quite slowly but with careful attention to the intonation on the melismas. In verses 2-4 bar-lines have been added to the text to guide the singer, who will need to adjust the slurring as necessary.