

Na sopkakh Manchurii
Music by I.A. Shatrov, lyrics by S.Petrov

The Hills of Manchuria (1905)
TablEdition Arnaud.D

Musical notation for measures 1-6. The system includes a treble clef staff with a 3/4 time signature and a key signature of one flat. Below it are three guitar staves labeled T (Treble), A (Acoustic), and B (Bass). The notation shows chords and fingerings, with 'B' indicating barre positions. Measure numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 are indicated below the guitar staves.

Musical notation for measures 7-13. The system includes a treble clef staff and three guitar staves (T, A, B). The notation shows chords and fingerings, with 'B' indicating barre positions. Measure numbers 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13 are indicated below the guitar staves.

Musical notation for measures 14-19. The system includes a treble clef staff and three guitar staves (T, A, B). The notation shows chords and fingerings, with 'B' indicating barre positions. Measure numbers 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19 are indicated below the guitar staves. A first ending bracket labeled '1.' spans measures 17-18, and a second ending bracket labeled '2.' spans measures 18-19.

Musical notation for measures 20-26. The system includes a treble clef staff and three guitar staves (T, A, B). The notation shows chords and fingerings, with 'B' indicating barre positions. Measure numbers 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, and 26 are indicated below the guitar staves.

Musical notation for measures 27-34. The system includes a treble clef staff and three guitar staves (T, A, B). The notation shows chords and fingerings, with 'B' indicating barre positions. Measure numbers 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, and 34 are indicated below the guitar staves. A first ending bracket labeled '3-4' spans measures 33-34.

"The Hills of Manchuria" (Na sopkakh Manchurii), so prominently sung by the main character in Mikhalkov's Urga (Close to Eden), refers to the Battle of Mukden (Manchuria). This was the final land battle of the Russo-Japanese War and took place in February-early March, 1905. Casualties were exceptionally heavy (the Russians lost 89,000 out of 330,000, and the Japanese, 71,000 out of 270,000 men). As the Russian tradition would have it, the battle was lost due largely to the poor generalship of the Russian Commander, A.N. Kuropatkin, who decided to retreat, which soon led to rout of the Russian army by the Japanese.

"Na sopkakh" has become one of the most popular Russian songs and has been transformed into urban folklore.

Around us, it is calm. Hills are covered by darkness.
 Suddenly, the moon shines through the clouds,
 Graves hold their calm.
 The white glow of the crosses—heroes are asleep.
 The shadows of the past circle around,
 Recall again and again the victims of battles.
 Around us, it's calm; the wind blew the fog away,
 Warriors are asleep on the hills of Manchuria
 And Russian weeping is cannot be heard.
 Dear mother is shedding tears,
 The young wife is weeping
 All like one are crying,
 Cursing fate, cursing destiny!
 Let kaoliang's rustling lull you to sleep,
 Rest in peace, heroes of the Russian land,
 Dear Fatherland's sons.
 You fell for Russia, perished for Fatherland,
 Believe us, we shall avenge you
 And celebrate a bloody wake

1905