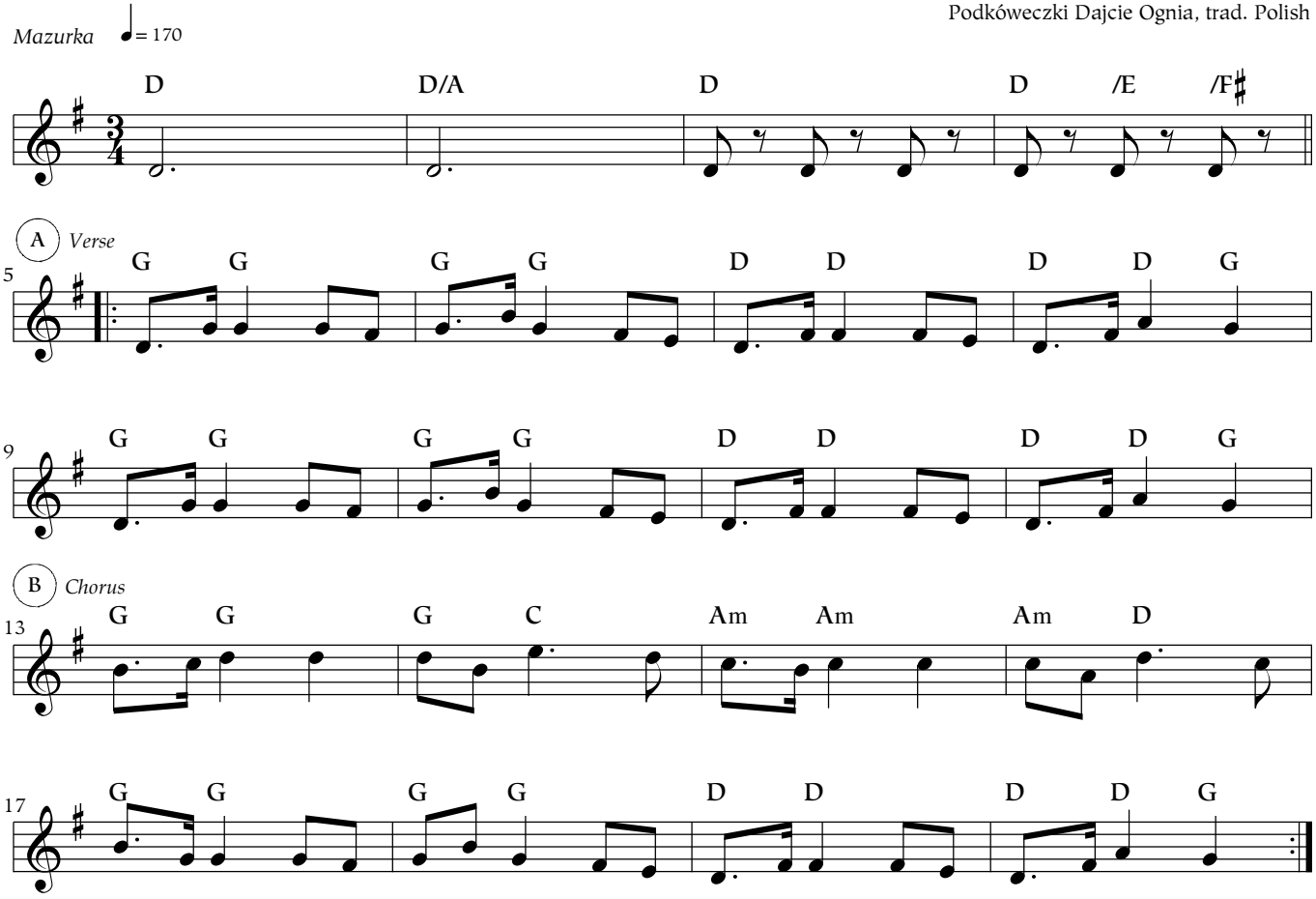
Little Horseshoes, Give Us Fire

Podkóweczki Dajcie Ognia, trad. Polish



1. Podkóweczki, dajcie ognia, bo dziewczyna tego godna, a czy godna, czy nie godna, podkóweczki dajcie ognia.
2. Hej, zawracaj od komina, a uważaj, której nie ma, jest tu Kasia, jest Marysia, tylko mojej Zośki nie ma.
3. Grajże grajku, będziesz w niebie, a basista koło ciebie, cymbalista jeszcze dalej, bo w cymbały dobrze wali.

Chorus: Nuże żywo, nuże dalej, bo podkówki są ze stali, byśmy ognia wykrzesali, nuże żywo, nuże dalej*!*

Translation courtesy of Olga Owens (2019):

1. Little heels, give us fire, for the girl is surely worthy! But whether worthy or not worthy, little heels, give us fire!
2. Hey you, don't be moping 'round the hearth, note who isn't here tonight. Here is Kasia, here's Marysia; only Zosia's gone and missing.
3. Keep on playing, music man, you'll get to heaven, yes you can! With the bassist by your side and the dulcimer player right nearby. Oh he plays those strings so well!

Chorus: And be lively now, keep going, because our heels are made of steel
So that we can strike the sparks. Hey, be lively now, keep going!

"Little heels" (literally "little horseshoes") refer to small crescent-shaped metal heel reinforcements traditionally nailed to the bottom of leather-soled shoes, which on some stone floors can create sparks.

The mazurka (*mazurek* or *mazur*) is one of Poland's national dances, originating in the ancient region of Mazovia *(Mazowsze)* in northeast-central Poland. Unlike a waltz, a mazurka's emphasis is on the second or third beat (the second beat in this example), as in "one-TWO-three" (rather than "ONE-two-three"). The mazurka's characteristic rhythm is 8th note pairs or dotted 8th/16th pairs, followed by a quarter note or even 8ths. Along with the polka (another Polish national dance), the mazurka was a popular ballroom dance throughout Europe in the 1800s, with many national and regional variations.

Frédéric Chopin (born near Warsaw in 1810) composed at least 59 piano solos based on the mazurka, generally including the characteristic rhythms and emphasis but having more elaborate melodies and complex harmonies.