



*Postcards from Batumi.*

*Number 1 Shupka Lamarzi.*

*Gamarjoba, greetings my fine friends.*

*You will have noticed, that when ever the band musika Rogora Khart plays, there is always a large, evocative picture, of a painted-faced, reclining lady accompanying us. We affectionately call her Shupka or Shupka Lamarzi, beautiful Shupka, but her real name is Maja. We rather naughtily stole Maja from Goya's painting La Maja Desnuda and painted her face white and gave her rosy red cheeks so that she would fit in with the band.*

*Goya, was rather naughty fellow himself. First he painted Maja with her clothes on, La Maja Vestida and then later on, in the buff, La Maja Desnuda. But Goya's naughtiness didn't end there, oh no! La Maja Desnuda is thought to be the first depiction of female pubic hair in the history of Western art. The Shupka, from the Rogora Khart song, is not actually a real Georgian girl's name. We made it up. I asked a Georgian friend, if Shupka had any meaning in Georgian and he told me that it sounded similar to a word for a short cardigan type garment. So the song Shupka, is about trying to find a beautiful Georgian girl or to find a lost cardigan. Either way, it's pretty emotional stuff.*

*With love*

*Riko*