

Beranče

Origin: Berat, Albania

Record: FM11-5 (Atanas), FM25-22 (Orce Nikolov), Folkraft LP-15, AK-003

Formation: Hand hold, L arm straight out to side near shoulder of dancer to left, R arm bent up forward with elbow close to ribs; knees are bent throughout most of the dance.

Source: Atanas Kolarovski

Note: A dance strictly for men, coming from Berat in Albania. In Macedonia two versions exist. It was introduced at the Skopje Festival in 1947, performed by a group from the border between Greek and Yugoslavian Macedonia. It was also performed by Tanec in 1949, led by Simos Constantinovski. Beranče shows the action of horsemen remounting their horses. In the middle of the dance, partners form and one boots the other into his mount. The 11/16 rhythm of the music is common to many Macedonian songs. The 3 measures per figure are unusual in 11/16 time, there usually being 2 or 4.

Meter: 11/16 counted SQQQQ

Style: Smooth and flowing.

No Introduction

I. Basic Step

Meas.

- 1 Lift and bounce twice on L ft (cts 1,2).
Step R to R (Ct 3).
Step L behind R (ct 4).
Step R to R in LOD, L coming up behind R (ct 5).
- 2 Step and lift on L in LOD (cts 1,2).
Step on R in LOD (Ct 3).
Step on L in LOD (Ct 4).
Step bkwd onto R ft; lift—bounce twice on R; close L to R (ct 5).
- 3 Lift-lift on R ft and step on L ft to L side, turning to face ctr of circle (cts 1,2,3)
Bending L knee, bring R ft high in front of L ft.
Quick (sudden) powerful thrust of R down fwd in front of L (ct 4).
At thrust, arms go straight up and dancers shout "Hot"
Go up on toes of L ft, R ft in front and go down flat on both feet (Ct With this movement, arms move back to original position.

II.

- 1-3 Same as meas 1-3 of Basic, but on last ct of meas 3, R ft (on toe) is thrust back behind L ft.

III.

Do basic step for a couple of measures.

- 1 Hop and turn on L in half circle (Ct 1).
Leap and go down onto L knee--R knee bent in front (cts 2,3).
Leap up onto L ft--R knee bends and R leg comes up (cts 4,5).
- 2 Small kick with R ft twd L ft.
Leap onto L.
Step onto R.
- 3 Step onto L and hop, R ft crossing in front of L (cts 1,2).
Step R to R in LOD (Ct 3).
Step fwd on L (4).
Step bkwd on R (:5).

IV.

- 1 Dancers take partner to their L; only leading man of the pair turns; both go onto knee.
Hops and turns on L ft to L in half circle (cts 1,2).
Step onto R ft (Ct 3).
Leap and go down onto L knee, R knee bent fwd with R ft in front of L ft (cts 4,5).
Note: Hand hold: L hand of 1st man holds R hand of partner, L hand at partner's inside R elbow, L hand of 2d man on shoulder of 1st, R hand holding L of first.

V.

- Do basic step for a couple of measures. Partners change places, 2d man taking longer stride to get into place of 1st. After his turn at turning and jumping, he takes his original position again.
- 1-3 Same as in part III, but turn to R with opp ftwk. The leader may signal with his handkerchief with a sweeping gesture to R when the turn to R will take place.

VI.

Do basic step for 2 phrases of music. On meas 3 (still with partner) pivot on R ft and face partner. Both partners go into squat, the second crossing hands to form a support as if to lift the first man onto his horse. Second man lifts arms while coming out of squat; first man jumps.

Presented by Atanas Kolarovski