

Mori Odajo Sarena – Macedonia

By Dennis Boxell

Macedonian from Northern Greece.

Translated by Dennis Boxell with help from the Carovski family of Bitola.

Folk dancers originally learned this dance as “Kostursko Oro”. John Filcich learned and adapted it from the mother of Dimitri Valkanov who first presented it in the 1950’s. Dimitri, a well-known Macedonian clarinet player from San Francisco, originally comes from the Kastoria (Kostur) region in northern Greece.

Since the original music was not available in those days, the dance was put to the tune of “Dodek je moma pri majka” and the tune of “Bisero kerko” was also tried by Mr. Filcich.

Many years later, Bob Liebman brought us the correct dance after having filmed a group of refugee women from the Kastoria region at a festival in Skoplje, Yugoslavia. The correct melody and dance styling were now, for the first time, available to us.

To continue to make matters confusing, members of the Macedonian Dance Ensemble “Tanec” and the well known Skopje singing group “Bapčorki” converted the tune from the original 5/8 meter to the more popular 7/8 “Lesnoto” meter, publishing it as “Mori Čupi Kosturčanki” (The Girls of Kastoria).