

Blagoevgradsko Horo

Pirin, Bulgaria

Blagoevgradsko horo consists of two typical dance motifs from the Pirin region of Bulgaria, that is to say the southwestern corner of Bulgaria. Pirin is the most "Macedonian" part of Bulgaria, and the music to this dance is in 7/8 time, that is to say the 3+2+2 or "long-short-short" count so characteristic of Macedonian folk music. The name of the music and dance means simply "(round) dance from Blagoevgrad," a town in this region of Bulgaria.

MUSIC: Blagoevgradsko horo
RHYTHM: 7/8 (counted here as "one-two-three")
FORMATION: Open circle, leader on right. High handhold.
STYLE: Typical "Macedonian" style with graceful, catlike movements. Women: hands slightly forward and upper body slightly bent forward from waist. Low leg lifts.
Men: Upright upper body position and higher leg lifts.

METER: 7/8

PATTERN

Meas

I. FIRST FIGURE (In, out, lift, touches/crosses)

- 1 Facing and moving LOD: Optional slight lift on left foot on the upbeat before you (delayed) walk on the R ft (1), walk on the L ft (2), walk on the R ft (3).
- 2 Repeat meas 1. opposite footwork.
- 3 Turning to face slightly L of center: step on R ft to R (1). Place ball of L ft next to R and bounce twice (2,3).
- 4 Repeat Measure 3, opposite direction and footwork and moving toward center.
- 5 Repeat Measure 3, but moving away from center.
- 6 Sway L by stepping L ft to the L while turning slightly to the R (1), then sway R by stepping on R ft while turning slightly to the L (2-3).
- 7 Facing and moving RLOD, walk two steps: L (1), R (2-3).
- 8 Turning to face LOD, step on L ft to L (1) and, placing ball of R ft next to L, bounce twice (2,3).

II. SECOND FIGURE (Crosses, "brush," lift and turn)

- 1 Facing and moving LOD: bounce twice on L ft while R ft "bounces" first down (1) then up (2). Step on R ft (3).
- 2 Measure 1, opposite footwork.
- 3 Repeat Measure 1.
- 4 Repeat Measure 1, opposite footwork.
- 5 Turning to face slightly L of center and with lower body twisted even more to L, plie with weight on both feet, feet together (1). Turning to face center by lifting R heel from floor, lift L knee twd center (2). Step on L ft in place (3).
- 6 Repeat Measure 1, in place, facing center.
- 7 Repeat Measure 1, opposite footwork, in place, facing center.
- 8 Repeat Measure 5, turning to face LOD on last count.
Repeat each figure as many times as desired. Leader (on right) signals changes.

*Dance description by Lee Otterholt
Presented by Lee Otterholt at the Laguna Folkdancers Festival 2002*