

Boyash

(Romanian, Gypsy)

Source: Daniel Sandu, from a community of gypsies living on the border between Hungary and Slovakia who speak a Romanian dialect.

Pronunciation:

CD: Daniel Sandu CD

Rhythm: 4/4 meter. In the description of the figures below: (Q) is “quick” or a half beat; (S) is “slow” or a full beat; and (Z) is “very slow” or a beat and a half.

Formation: Individuals randomly across available space; people can interact as they choose.

Styling: Loose, exuberant, improvisational with spontaneity and originality. Twisting, shouting, spinning, whistling, snapping fingers, slapping and clapping hands, are permitted.

The three figures can be done in any order, and repeated as desired. It’s not critical that everyone be doing the same figure at the same time. Typically a figure is repeated several times before moving on.

Stamps are full foot without weight unless otherwise noted.

Meas

Pattern

12 measures

INTRODUCTION

FIGURE I

- 1 Step on R across L (Q) (ct 1); step back on L in place (Q) (ct &); step sdwd on R to R (Q) (ct 2); jump onto both ft facing diag R (S) (cts &,3); jump in place or slightly L onto both ft facing diag L (Q) (ct &); jump onto both ft facing diag R (S) (ct 4). (QQQSQS)
- 2-3 Repeat meas 1 twice (3 total).
- 4 Jump fwd on both ft together (Z) (cts 1,&,2); jump fwd on both ft (Z) (cts &,3,&); jump fwd on both ft a third time (S) (ct 4). (ZZS)

FIGURE II

- 1 Step on R in place (S) (ct 1); step L in place (Q) (ct 2); step on R in place (Q) (ct &); repeat cts 1, 2, & with opp ftwk (SQQ) (cts 3,4,&). (SQQSQQ)
- 2 Repeat meas 1, but with a slap of the free ft at the end (ct &) of each slow step (QQQQ). Slaps can be to the side, in front, behind, with either hand (but more commonly with the R) and can be a slap of the thigh, the boot, or even of the sole of the boot.
- 3 Moving to R, do a full CW turn stepping R, L (SS) (cts 1,2); facing fwd, step sdwd on R (S) (ct 3); close L to R without wt and clap hands high (S) (cts 4). (SSSS)
- 4 Repeat meas 3 with opp ftwk and direction. (SSSS).

Boyash—continued

FIGURE II

- 1 Step R-L-R in place (QQQ) (cts 1,&,2); stamp L heel in place (Q) (ct &); step L-R in place (QQ) (cts 3,&); with whole foot stamp L with wt in place (S) (ct 4). (QQQQQQS)
- 2 Stamp R (no wt) across and in front of L (S) (ct 1); lift L heel, taking wt on ball of ft and raising heel, then lower it, while lifting R up and back (Q) (ct 2); step on R behind L (Q) (ct &); step on L in place (Q) (ct 3); stamp flat R ft to the side with R pointing diag R (Q) (ct &); lift R from the knee behind left leg (S) (ct 4). (SQQQQS)
- 3 Step on R across L (S) (ct 1); step sdwd on L to left (ct 2); step on R to R side and slightly back (Q) (ct &); repeat cts 1, 2 & with opp ftwk and direction (cts 3,4,&). (SQQSQQ);
- 4 Repeat meas 3.

Notes by Gary Diggs

Presented by Gary Diggs