

CHETVORNO HORO

(Bulgaria)

This horo is one of the most characteristic of the Šop ethnographic area, which is found in western Bulgaria. The version of the dance described below comes from the village of Gabra, located about 20 miles southeast of Sofia. Petur Iliev learned the dance from those living in this village and more specifically from his grandfather, Petur Radev.

This dance is performed in the form of an open circle, an example of the so-called vodeno horo. The dancers are connected to each other by belt holds. Men and women are placed alternately along the dance line. The dance is comprised of three parts. The second and third parts are danced at a fast tempo. This is very characteristic of this region, as is the heightened emotional tension expressed by yells and whistles during these sections of the dance.

PRONUNCIATION: chet-VOR-no ho-RO
FORMATION: Belt hold. Dancers face 45° to right of center.
STYLE: Very light and nimble dancing, full of lots of inner energy
MUSIC: Petur Iliev - Bulgarski Narodni Tanci side A, No. 2

METER: 7/8 S Q Q 1 2 3

PATTERN

Meas

PART I

- 1-10 Introduction. No action.
First section of dance: Slow tempo. Starting position is with R raised from the floor.
- 1-2 Jump on both feet while in 6th position. Jump from L to R and from R to L.
3 Moving to the right and to the back, step widely with R and then move L to meet R.
4 Moving to the left and to the back, step widely with L and then move R to meet L.
5 Repeat measure 3
6-7 Jump on both feet while in 6th position. Jump from R to L and from L to R.
8 Repeat measure 4
9 Repeat measure 3
10 Repeat measure 4

PART II

- Faster tempo. Starting position is with R raised from the floor. This section and the next use a movement called spusuk which entails forceful extension of the foot from the starting position with toes pointed upward.
- 1-2 Spusuk (S) with R. Jump from L to R and R to L.
3 Jump from L to R while moving backwards and facing left. Continue facing left. While standing in place jump from R to L and L to R.
4 Jump from R to L while moving backwards and facing right. Continue facing right. While standing in place jump from L to R and R to L.
5 Repeat measure 3
6-7 Spusuk with L. Jump from R to L and L to R
8 Repeat measure 4
9 Repeat measure 3
10 Repeat measure 4

PART III

- Very fast tempo. Starting position is with R raised from the floor.
- 1 Spusuk with R, bounce on L and jump from L to R
2 Spusuk with L, bounce on R and jump from R to L
3-5 Repeat measure 3-5 of Part II
6 Repeat measure 2
7 Repeat measure 1
8-10 Repeat measure 8-10 of Part II

Presented by Petur Iliev at the Laguna Folkdancers Festival 2001