

# Çobankat

(Albania)

Çobankat (choh-BAHN-kaht) means “The Shepardesses.” It is a traditional song of the “Tosk” people of Albania. The words extol the freedom to be found in the mountains of Albania. Lee Otterholt put typical Albanian steps to the melody. This description records the dance as Lee presented it at the 2004 Stockton Foll Dance Camp.

CDs: *ayde Mon* by Muammer Ketencotlu, et.al., 2/4 mete  
released by Kalan Muzik, Istanbul, Band 11; *Balkan and Beyond vol. 2*, Band 10.

Formation: Open circle, hands joined in V-pos.

Styling: Proud. Bounce twice gently on every ct (1,&). Note: A slight hesitation can be made before each transfer of wt; that is, tread ever so slightly after the beat.

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| Meas | Pattern |
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INTRODUCTION No action. (clarinet solo + 4 meas drumbeats)

I. CROSS BEHIND, THEN MOVE (instrumental)

- 1 Facing ctr and dancing in place, step on R (ct 1); step on L behind R (ct 2); step on R in place (ct &).
- 2 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk (cts 1,2,&).
- 3 Facing ctr, but moving to the R, step on R to R (ct 1); step on L behind R (ct 2); step on R to R (ct &).
- 4 Step on L across in front of R (ct 1); step on R to R (ct 2); step on L across in front of R (ct &).
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.
- 9-11 Repeat meas 1-3.

(That is: Repeat this dance motif 2 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> times. There is no meas 12.)

II. STEP FORWARD AND LIFT, CROSS BEHIND (song verse)

- 1 Facing ctr and dancing in place, step fwd on L across in front of R (ct 1); bounce 2 times on L while R ft swings around to a position directly in front of L shin (cts 2,&).
- 2 Step on R directly behind L (ct 1); step on L directly behind R (ct 2); moving to the R, step on R to R (ct &).
- 3-12 Repeat meas 1-2 five more times (six times in all).

III. CROSSING IN FRONT (song refrain)

- 1 Step fwd on L across in front of R (ct 1); turning slowly to face L, bounce 2 times on L while ft swings slowly around in front of L (cts 2,&).
- 2 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk.
- 3-4 Repeat Fig II, meas 1-2.
- 5-6 Repeat meas 1-2.
- 7 Repeat Fig II, meas 1.
- 8 Step on R directly behind L (ct 1); bounce 2 times on R as L ft twists slightly behind R leg, the swings around in front of R ft (cts 2,&).
- 9-12 Repeat Fig II, meas 1-2 twice.
- 13 Repeat Fig II, meas 1. (There is no meas 14.)

Sequence: The dance repeats twice more from the beginning. On the last instrumental phrase, continue Fig II steps (beginning with meas 2) to the end of the music. End by bringing ft slowly together

Presented by Lee Otterholt  
2004 Stockton Folk Dance Camp

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1. Çobankat moj qe shkojne (bre)  
Zallit moj çobankat-e  
Shkojnë ë tjerrin për djemte  
Mallit moj çobankat-e

**Chorus:** O liri liri per djemte mallit-e  
Djemtë moj me ylle të kuq mes ballit-e  
O moj çobankat-e  
O moj të mjerat-e

2. Turr motër moj të tjerrim  
Tu bejmë rroba trimave //

3. Turrë trashë o moj se turrë  
Hollë o moj se turrë hollë  
Për trimat që flejne ne  
Dëbore o moj ne dëbore

**Translation:**

The shepherd girls come from the river,  
They knit sweaters for their young men in the mountains,  
They cry out for freedom.

For the men who have a red star on their foreheads,  
Let's knit sisters,  
Let's knit sweaters.

Not thin ones but thick ones,  
So that our men will not feel cold in the snow.

Tosk dialect, Albanian song for a dance introduced by Lee Otterholt  
at Stockton Folk Dance Camp 2004, from the recording "Ajde Mori"

Presented by Joyce Clyde with great musical and linguistic assistance from  
Merita Halili, Brenna MacCrimmon, Eva Salina Primack, Barbara Bevan,  
Barbara Deutsch and practical assistance by Paul Brown, Lise Liepman,  
Toni Denmark, and Jerry Duke