

Čoček

(Very popular gypsy dance all over Macedonia)

“Čoček” is the generic name for the dances from the Gipsy communities in Macedonia. At any folk gathering, like weddings or a “sunet” (circumcision feast) the people dance the Čoček endlessly. There are different forms of Čoček and the steps may vary a little from region to region. But the main difference is that the gypsy people in the South (Bitola, Prilep, Kievo) prefer a slower pace in their Čoček, whereas the Skopje people and the other Gypsy communities in the North like to dance much faster.

Pronunciation: TSCHOH-tschehk

CD: PAMUK CD 1104/06

Rhythm: 2/4 (although a Čoček can be played in 7/8 as well)

Formation: Most of the time the dance is done in a kind of open circle (or many circles in crowded situations) with arms in a relaxed W-pos.

Wt on L, face ctr; the dance line moves slowly to the R

Styling: Dance relaxedly with as many hip- and shoulder-movements as you like.

In the Gypsy communities, people usually dance just one of these 3 figures. When we do them one after another we actually go back in time; the 3rd figure is the oldest one.

Meas

Pattern

8 or 16 meas INTRODUCTION. Start with the beginning of a new musical phrase.

FIGURE I (Basic Step)

- 1 Facing ctr and moving bkwd, step on R (ct 1); step on L (ct 2).
- 2 Step on R (ct 1); touch L toe diag in front of R ft (ct 2).
- 3 Moving fwd, step on L (ct 1); touch R toe next to L ft (ct 2).

FIGURE II (three-step *on* the beat)

- 1 Facing ctr and moving bkwd, step on R (ct 1); step on L (ct 2).
- 2 Step on R (ct 1); step on L next to R (ct 2); step on R next to L (ct &).
- 3 Step on L diag fwd (ct 1); step on R next to L (ct 2); step on L diag fwd (ct &).

FIGURE III (three-step *off* the beat)

- 1 Facing ctr and moving bkwd, bounce on L (ct 1); step on R (ct &); bounce on R (ct 2); step on L (ct &).
- 2 Bounce on L (ct 1); step on R (ct &); step on L (ct 2); step diag fwd on R (ct &).
- 3 Bounce on R (ct 1); step fwd on L (ct &); step on R (ct 2); step on L (ct &).

Description by Paul Mulders

Presented by Paul Mulders