



HARMANLIISKA RŪCHENITSA
(Bulgaria)

This dance is characteristic of the southeastern portion of the Thracian ethnographic region. It is an atypical representation of the rūchenitza genre in that it is danced хороводно (horovodno), that is, in the form of regular horo, rather than as a couple dance.

The dancers are joined by their hands. The movements of the hands are integral to the style of the dance. The dance is performed with gentle but solemn movements. The accents in the dance are mainly in the direction of the ground but they are not accomplished sharply and quickly, but very calmly; which reflects the inner peace, the calm and lively temperament of the Thracian.

This rūchenitza is danced in the village of Harmanli, from which it gets its name. I learned this dance from Bai Dinko during 1982 in Harmanli. Another interesting point about this dance is that it is executed in 9 measure phrases, which do not correspond to the 8 measure phrases of the music.

Pronunciation: Har-man-lii-ska Ru-chen-it-sa

Formation: Dance is performed in an open circle. Dancers are joined by hand holds and face slightly to the right.

Style: Men dance with slightly bent knees. Women dance with very straight body positions. Dance is performed with a lot of pride. Tempo does not change throughout.

Meter: 7/8: 2 + 2 + 3. Medium tempo.

Music: Unknown.

Measure Movements

9 meas This dance has only one 9 measure part which repeats many times.

- 1: While moving right, step with R and then jump on R. At the same time, while jumping on R swing L from behind R to in front of R.
- 2: While moving right, step with L and then jump on L. At the same time, while jumping on L swing R from behind L to in front of L.
- 3: Step on R, step on L, jump slightly from L to R. (This series of movements is termed a rūchenichna [RŪ]).
- 4: RŪ starting with L.
- 5: Repeat meas 3.
- 6: Moving right, step forward on L, crossing in front of R. Jump on L.

Harmanliiska Ruchenitsa • Petŭr Iliev

- 7-8: Strike heel of R on floor crossing in front of L. Step on R. Moving left and to the back, jump from R to L.
9: Repeat meas 7 but in place, rather than moving left and back.

Description of Hand Movements

<u>Measure</u>	<u>Movements</u>
1-2:	Swing arms from back to front, finishing with forearms close to the body, raised upright from bent elbows, palm of hands facing out.
3-5:	Lower elbows toward body and raise again.
6:	Extend arms, swing arms back and forward, finishing as before.
7-8:	Extend arms forward and parallel to the floor, draw back into same upraised, elbow-locked position.
9:	Extend arms and swing them back behind body.

Introduced by Petŭr Iliev at the Kolo Festival, 1990.