

Katerino Mome

(Pirin, Bulgaria)

“Katerino Mome” is the name of the song, for which the words follow. Ventsi learned this dance during the time he worked as a lead dancer for the Pirin Ensemble. The dance also sometimes goes by the name “Arap,” meaning “Arab,” which is a name which several Macedonian dances share.

Pronunciation: kah-teh-REE-noh MOH-meh

Music: Pirin Ensemble, Balkanton BHMC 7299 cassette, Side 1/5. 2/4 meter

Formation: Open line, facing center and moving to the R (LOD). Hands joined in W-pos.

Meas Pattern

11 meas INTRODUCTION. Dance begins with singing.

BASIC STEP

- 1 Lift R knee (ct 1); step on R (ct &); lift L knee (ct 2); step on L (ct &).
- 2 Lift R knee (ct 1); step on R (ct &); lift whole L leg and extend to R, dipping slightly on standing R leg (ct 2); hold L leg in place and dip a little deeper on R (ct &).
- 3 Facing a bit to the R, step back on L (ct 1); step back on R (ct &); close both ft together, turning to face ctr, flexing both legs (ct 2); raise and dip a second time on both legs, coming down this time with wt on L and beg to swing arms up and fwd (ct &).
- 4 Step on R across in front of L, lowering arms as if swinging them in slow motion (ct 1); step back on L in place, continuing arm swing (ct &); step on R to R side, “moving like a cat,” and turning to face more in the line of travel (ct 2); step on L to R side, bringing hands back to W-pos (ct &).

VARIATION

- 1 Repeat Basic Step, meas 1.
- 2 Lift R leg and extend to the R, dipping slightly on standing L (ct 1); dip a little deeper, still holding R leg up (ct &); facing diag R, step back on R (ct 2); step back on L (ct &).
- 3 Facing ctr, step on R across in front of L, lowering hands to V-pos (ct 1); step back on L in place, lifting hands back to W-pos (ct &); leap onto R in place, flicking L ft up across in front of R leg, so L sole shows to the R side (ct 2); leap onto L in place, flicking R ft up across in front of L leg, so R sole shows to the L side (ct &).

SEQUENCE: The Variation is done after 5 repeats of the Basic Step. The first 4 times of the Basic Step happen during the singing, so the Variation comes in the second half of the instrumental section (which is only 3 meas long, rather than 4).

Notes by Erik Bendix

Presented by Erik Bendix

Katerino Mome—continued

Song Lyrics:

Katerino Mome

- Blagoevgrad, Pirin, Bulgaria -

Katerino, mome, Katerino
 Katerino, mome, krotko jagne
 zlašto si tolkoz, mome, ubava
 zlašto si tolkoz, mome, gizdava?

Kakva si voda, mome, ti pila
 kakva si treva, mome, gazila
 kakva te majka, mome, raždala
 kakva te majka, mome, gledala?

Ja sam si, milo libe, ubava
 Ja sam si, milo libe, gizdava
 Oti sam rasla, libe v'planina
 Oti sam rasla, libe, v'Pirina.

Pirinska voda, libe, sam pila
 Pirinska treva, libe, gazila
 Bŭlgarska majka me e raždala
 Bŭlgarska majka, libe, gledala

Translation:

Katerina, girl, tender lamb, why are you so beautiful and pretty?
 What kind of water do you drink?
 What kind of grass did you walk on?
 What kind of mother bore you and raised you?

I am beautiful and pretty, my love, because I was born in the Pirin mountains,
 because I drank the Pirin water,
 I walked on Pirin grass,
 and I was born and raised by a Bulgarian Pirin mother!