

Presented by Atanas Kolarovski

KUMANOVSKO ORO  
Macedonia

This dance is named for the town of Kumanovo, which is 30-40 km. northeast of Skopje. It is very popular in many of the villages in this area and when people move from the village into the city, they still dance this dance with the village styling. The musicians live in Kumanovo and travel around, playing for weddings, slavas, church and state holidays and other celebrations. Slavos (family Patron Saitn days) are occasions when villagers visit other villages. Each group likes to show how much they know and how well they can dance and improvise new variations during friendly competition.

This description gives just the basics, so that a traveler could go and dance in a village with the local people.

A village is not just the businesses in an area, but the homes and farms immediately surrounding the central area. Each village has a separate set of customs, language variations, distinct dress decoration and traditions. Originally, one main function of a village was joint protection of all members properties. Celebrations are held in the open area in the center of the village, often on rocky, uneven ground.

## PRONUNCIATION:

RECORD: Songs and Dance of Jugoslovia, AK-007 (LP), Side B, Band 4.

RHYTHM: 12/16, counted:  $\frac{1,2}{1}$   $\frac{3,4}{2}$   $\frac{5,6}{3}$   $\frac{7,8,9}{4}$   $\frac{10,11,12}{5}$   
Q Q Q S S

The second slow is slightly longer than the first in some of the phrases.

FORMATION: Originally separate lines, facing fwd, with M in shldr hold and W in "W" pos. If done in mixed lines, use "W" pos.

Each pattern is repeated until change is called by leader.

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METER: 12/16

PATTERN

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Meas.

INTRODUCTION:

- FIG. I: (Do in place)
- 1 Lift on L, raise R (ct 1), step R in place (ct 2), hold (ct 3), flex down and up on R, raise L (cts 4-5).
  - 2-4 Repeat meas 1, alternating ftwk 3 more times (4 in all).

- FIG. II: (Move slightly to R)
- 1 Lift on L, raise R (ct 1), step R (ct 2), hold (ct 3), lift on R (ct 4), step L fwd (ct 5).

*Continued.*

Note: Meas 2 is counted in the full 12 cts, because of different musical phrasing.

2 Lift on L, raise R (cts 1-2), step R fwd, hold (cts 3-6), step L fwd (cts 7-8), step R fwd (cts 9-10), step L fwd (ct 11), hold (ct 12).

3-4 Repeat meas 1-2.

FIG. III: (Moving in LOD)

1 Lift on L (ct 1), step R fwd (ct 2), small lift on R (ct 3), step L,R fwd (cts 4-5).

2 Small lift on R (ah), step L fwd (ct 1), step R fwd (cts 2-3), step L fwd (ct 4), step R,L fwd (ct 5).

3-4 Repeat meas 1-2.

FIG. IV: (In place)

1 Lift on L twice (cts 1-2), step R in place (ct 3), step L slightly fwd (ct 4), step R in place (ct 5).

2-4 Repeat meas 1, alternating ftwk.

FIG. V: (In place)

1 Lift on L twice and raise R (cts 1-2), step R,L,R in place (QSS) (cts 3-5)

2 Lift on R twice (cts 1-2), step L to L (ct 3), step R in LOD (ct 4), step L,R in LOD (ct 5).

3 Slight leap onto L (ct 1), step R in place (ct 2-3), step L,R in place (cts 4-5),

4 Repeat meas 2.

Repeat Fig. III in LOD and alternate with Fig. V until end of music.

This description is meant as refresher notes only, for use after having learned the dance from a qualified instructor. Peoper styling must be learned in person as it cannot be adequately described in writing.