

PRESKACANKA (Prehs-KAH-chahn-kah) - Bulgaria

Learned by Yves Moreau, fall 1971, from village dance group in Gecovo, Razgrad District, N.E. Bulgaria. Preskacanka belongs to the family of the well-known Pajdusko Horo danced throughout Bulgaria and Macedonia. This version is very popular among the "kapanci" people. The "Kapanci" are said to be direct descendants of the early Bulgarian settlers ("protobulgarians") who came from the Volga River area with their leader Asparoukh in the 5th century A.D. The term "Kapanci" is derived from "na kapki" referring to the special "dotted" embroidery stitch found on their costumes. The "Kapanci" live primarily in about 20 distinct villages situated around the towns of Razgrad, Sumen & Targoviste in N.E. Bulgaria. They have many special dances, songs and rituals. The "Kapanci" wedding is especially colorful.

Meter: 5/16. 1-2, 1-2-3. Counted here as: 1,2 Formation: Mixed lines of M & W, hands joined down at sides. Face ctr. Wt on L.

Style: Kapanski styling is sort of a mixture of quick North Bulgarian movements with that special touch of Dobrudjan-like heaviness. There is therefore a slight knee bend during the dance & the arm movements are firm.

Meas. Description Note: *Dance may start at beginning of any musical phrase.

I. "NA MJASTO" (In place)

- 1 Step on R crossing in front of L, simultaneously, arms swing fwd, about parallel to floor (ct 1) shift wt back on L ft in place, arms start swinging bkwd (ct 2)
- 2 Step bkwd on R ft, arms swing back (ct 1) step on L in place, arms start swinging fwd (ct 2)
- 3 Repeat pattern of meas 1, exactly
- 4 Small hop on L ft in place, arms swing back (ct 1) small step on R slightly to R, arms start swinging fwd (ct 2)
- 5-8 Repeat pattern of meas 1-4, reversing direction & ftwork

II. "NAKOLO" (Around)

- 1 Small hop on L ft in place, hands swing fwd (ct 1) step fwd on R, arms start swinging bkwd (ct. 2)
- 2 Small leap fwd onto L ft next to R, hands swing bkwd (ct 1) small step fwd on R, arms start swinging fwd (ct 2)
- 3-8 Repeat action of meas 1-2 first heading fwd and to R, then bkwd & finally to L back to original place. You have thus described a sort of circular motion in an 8 meas pattern.

III. "NAPRED-NAZAD" (Forward & Back)

- 1 Step on R crossing in front of L, simultaneously, hands come up to eye level & slightly fwd & point to L (ct 1) shift wt back on L ft in place, hands remain pointing to L (ct 2)
- 2 Step to R with R, hands now point to R (ct 1) small step fwd on L, hands remain pointing to R (ct 2)
- 3-4 Repeat pattern of meas 1-2 exactly
- 5 Small hop on L ft in place, arms start moving fwd & downwards (ct 1) step on R in front of L, arms continue downward action (ct 2)
- 6 Shift wt back on L ft in place, arms swing bkwd (ct 1) shift wt on R ft in place, arms start swinging fwd (ct 2)
- 7 Small hop on L ft in place, arms swing fwd (ct 1) step on R in front of L, arms start swinging bkwd (ct 2)
- 8 Repeat pattern of meas 6, exactly.
- 9 Small hop on L ft in place, arms swing fwd (ct 1) step bkwd on R, arms start swinging bkwd (ct 2)
- 10 Still moving bkwd, repeat pattern of meas 9, reversing ftwork
- 11-12 Repeat pattern of meas 9-10
- 13-16 Repeat pattern of meas 5-8.

Note: *Leader calls each figure at will, preferably in the above sequence.

Presented by Yves Moreau - Description by Yves Moreau