

Pushchenu or Levendikos

(Florina - Aegean Macedonia)

Source:

I first saw and learned this dance in 1967 from Simos Konstantinou, a very gifted dancer from the town of Florina (Lerin) in Greek Macedonia. Simos was a very flamboyant and creative dancer, full of expression, grace and power. Since first learning the dance from Simos, I've seen and danced this dance at various Macedonian events in the Macedonian communities in the Great Lakes area. This dance is another variant in the group of dances often referred to as "*Beranche*", and found in area near Bitola and on south through Florina (Lerin) and the surrounding villages. The dance is referred to in both Greek (e.g., Levendikos, Lytos) and Macedonian (e.g., Pushchenu, Pushtejnu, Bufsko, Armentsko) and while rhythmically similar to Beranche it is often played at a faster tempo and with a different emphasis.

Typically Beranche is played in a 12/8 (or 12/16) meter as follows:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \underline{S} & Q & Q & \underline{S} & Q \\ (3/16 + 2/16 + 2/16 + 3/16 + 2/16) \\ \underline{1} & 2 & 3 & \underline{4} & 5 \end{array}$$

Whereas, Levendikos/Pushchejnu is often played in a 16/16 meter as follows:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \underline{\hspace{1cm}S} & & Q & Q & & \underline{S} & Q \\ ((2/16 + 2/16) + 2/16 + 3/16 + (2/16 + 2/16) + 3/16) \\ \underline{1} & \& 2 & 3 & \underline{4} & \& 5 \end{array}$$

Pronunciation:

PUSH-cheh-nu

Formation:

Mixed lines of men and women, hands held up at shoulder height (most common) or hands joined as sides, wt on LF, facing slightly diagonally R of ctr.

Record:

Seljani Macedonian Folklore Group (Pushchenu) - Toronto
Balkan Arts FL-2C (Levendikos); Banda Tis Florinas (CD) - Valkanis Brothers
Mendocino Folklore Camp 2000 Tape

Meas. Ct.

Introduction

- | | | |
|---|----------|---|
| 1 | <u>1</u> | Slight bounce on LF, lifting free RF slightly up in front of RF. |
| | 2 | Bounce again on LF, while moving free RF fwd in preparation for step CCW onto RF. |
| | <u>3</u> | Facing slightly diagonally R of ctr, step fwd onto RF. |
| | 4 | Slight bounce on RF, while moving LF next to, and behind RF. |
| | & | Moving CCW, step onto LF moving it behind RF. |
| | 5 | Moving CCW, step forward onto RF. |
| 2 | 1 | Moving CCW, Step fwd onto LF. |
| | 2-3 | Moving CCW, Step fwd onto RF. |
| | 4 | Turning to face ctr, step fwd (towards ctr) onto LF. |
| | 5 | Facing ctr, Step backwards in place onto RF. |

(continued)

Pushchenu or Levendikos

(continued)

- 3 1 Facing Ctr, slight bounce on RF, lifting free LF slightly up in front of LF.
 2 Bounce again on RF, while moving free LF bkwd in preparation for step back onto LF.
 3 Facing ctr, step backwards onto LF.
 4 Step back in place onto RF beside LF.
 5 Step onto LF crossing it in front of RF.

Note: This 3 measure pattern forms the basic framework for the dance, and the form out of which the dance is created anew each time the dance is danced. Feel free to add bounces, syncopated steps etc. As with many Macedonian dances, the leader of the line may, at any time, add their most treasured “ornaments” onto the dance. These would include turns, squats, leaps and other movements.

Notes by Larry Weiner - 6/2000

As presented by Larry Weiner at Mendocino Folklore Camp, 2000