

Sandansko Horo

Bulgaria

Sandansko Horo is from the town of Sandanski, Blagoevgrad district, some 30 kilometers north of the border with Greece in the southwest corner of Bulgaria. Yves says the dance is quite popular in the villages of Liljakovo and Ograzden in the Pirin (eastern Macedonia) area. It has an interesting rhythm structure, consisting of one measure of 9/16 and one measure of 13/16. The most popular instrument of this region is the "tambura," and most of the players are Gypsies who have recently adopted some musical ornamentations and styles from nearby Greece. Yves Moreau learned this dance in October, 1969, from members of a folk ensemble from the town of Sandanski, Blagoevgrad District, Bulgaria, and subsequently taught it to folk dancers in the United States.

TRANSLATION: Sandanski dance

PRONUNCIATION: sahn-DAHNSkoh hoh-ROH

MUSIC: Worldtone (45rpm) WT-YM 004
Geisler, Richard. "Sandansko Horo" (sheet music), The Bulgarian Collection, The Village & Early Music Society, 15181 Ballantree Lane, Grass Valley, CA 95949-7633.

METER/RHYTHM: 9/16 + 13/16. The combined rhythm is quick-quick-quick-slow, quick-quick-quick-slow-quick-quick (2+2+2+3 = 9, 2+2+2+3+2+2 = 13). These two meas will be combined into 4 + 6 dancer's beats with the fourth in each meas being the longest

FORMATION: Short lines of mixed M and W with hands joined and held down at sides in "V" pos.

STEPS/STYLE: There is a slight knee bend throughout with the upper part of the body erect and the arms relaxed. Steps are small and light.

PATTERN

Meas

INTRODUCTION: None, but the dance may start at beg of any musical phrase.

- 1 Facing slightly R of ctr, small hop L, while slightly raising R and extending it in LOD (bt 1); step R swd in LOD, bending knees (bt 2); low leap L next to, or in back of R (bt 3); step R swd, bending knees (bt 4).
- 2 Repeat action of meas 1, bts 1-4, in same dir with opp ftwk (bts 1-4); small leap R in LOD (bt 5); step L across R (bt 6).

Sandansko Horo – page 2 of 2

- 3 Small hop L, pointing R low and down diag twd LOD (bt 1); turning to face ctr, hop L, pointing R low and down twd ctr (bt 2); turning to face slightly L of ctr, small hop L, pointing R low and down diag twd RLOD (bt 3); step R across L, bending knees (bt 4).
- 4 Small leap L in RLOD (bt 1); small step R in RLOD (bt 2); small leap L in RLOD (bt 3); small step R in RLOD (bt 4); turning to face ctr, small hop R (bt 5); small leap L bwd (bt 6).

Repeat entire dance from beg.

Copyright © 2004 by Dick Oakes

Presented by Richard Julian
Camp Hess Kramer Institute
October 29 – 31, 2004