

ŠOPSKA PETORKA
(Macedonia)

This is probably the most famous exhibition dance in Yugoslavia. It is based on dance movements of the Shope people living in Eastern Macedonia and Western Bulgaria. The special movements are intended to imitate various kinds of work. ^{SOPSKA} Petorka was choreographed by I. Mitsveski in 1953 for the Tanec Ensemble and was learned by Mr. Kolarovski at that time. It is called Petorka because it is danced by five dancers, in line formation. The commands for the steps are called by the dancer in the middle.

Pronunciation: SHOPE-skah PET-or-kah

Record: AK-003, Side 1, Band 1. 2/4 meter: notated here as 4 cts per meas for simplification.

Formation: A line of 5 dancers, using a belt hold; L arm over the R of neighbor.

The dance is notated in 3 parts - each part having a number of steps. The music for Part I begins with a slow tempo, speeds up to a faster tempo, and speeds up again to a still faster tempo, ending with a short pause. The music for Part II begins at a still faster tempo which is continued for the rest of the dance. The music for Part II also comes to an abrupt stop. This time the pause is of longer duration and the dancers mimic the felling of a tree. The music for Part III is at the same fast tempo as the music for Part II.

MeasPattern

- 1-2 Introduction
PART I - Lesnoto-type step. Slow tempo
 3 Moving in LOD, in slight crouch, step on R to R (ct 1).
 hold (ct 2); step on L across in front of R (ct 3); hold (ct 4). *RIGHT ON BALL OF R*
 4 Step on R to R (ct 1); hold (ct 2); lift L leg, bending L knee (ct 3);
 hold (ct 4). *OFF R*
 5 Repeat action of meas 4, opp ftwk and direction.
 6-11 Repeat action of meas 3-5, 2 more times.

A. 4 Slow Rocking Steps - Middle tempo

- 1 Facing ctr, step on R to R, leaning body to R, leaving L ft
 in place (ct 1); hold (ct 2); bounce slightly on R (ct 3); hold (ct 4).
 2 Repeat action of preceding meas with opp ftwk.
 3-4 Repeat action of preceding 2 meas.

B. 6 Fast Rocking Steps - Fast tempo

- 1 Step on R to R, leaning body to R, leaving L in place (ct 1);
 bounce on R (ct 2); step on L to L, leaning body to L, leaving
 R in place (ct 3); bounce on L (ct 4).
 2-3 Repeat action of preceding meas 2 more times for a total of
 6 rocking steps.
 4 Close R to L sharply (ct 1); hold (cts 2,3,4).

BASIC STEP FOR PARTS II AND III: a 6 ct step taking 1 1/2 meas to complete:

- 1 With a sharp, high stepping action, step on L in place (ct 1);
 hop on L (ct 2); step on R in place (ct 3); step on L in place (ct 4).
 2 Step on R in place (ct 1); hop on R in place, kicking L sharply
 fwd and back (ct 2).

Continued.

ŠOPSKA PETORKA (cont)PART II - beginning of very fast tempo-A. 5 Basic Steps

- 1-8 Do 5 Basic Steps as described above, using 30 cts. On ct 29 the leader calls "a sega" in preparation for the next step. Transition Step from Basic to "A Sega": Step on L in place (ct 31); hop on L (ct 32).

B. "A Sega" (Do it now)

- 9 Step on R in place, turning face to L, swinging L ft to side like a bell (ct 1); hop on R (ct 2); step on L in place, turning face to R, swinging R ft to side like a bell (ct 3); hop on L (ct 4).
10 Repeat action of meas 9, cts 1,2; step on L in place, lifting R next to L, with R knee bent, toe pointing down (ct 3); hop on L (ct 4).

C. One, Two, Three, Stamp - 4 times

- 11 With high stepping action, step on R in place (ct 1); step on L in place (ct 2); step on R in place (ct 3); stamp L ft sharply, slightly fwd, bending at waist (ct 4).
12 Repeat action of meas 11, with opp ftwk.
13-14 Repeat action of meas 11-12.

D. Fast Pas De Basque, Kicks, Steps - 2 times

- 15 Step on R to R (ct 1); step on L crossing in front of R (ct &); step on R in place (ct 2); repeat action of cts 1, &, 2 with opp ftwk (cts 3, &, 4).
16 Leap onto R in place, kicking L sharply across in front of R, L knee bent (ct 1); leap onto L in place, kicking R sharply across in front of L, R knee bent (ct 2); step sharply in place on R, lifting L (ct 3); step sharply in place on L, lifting R (ct 4).
17-18 Repeat action of meas 15-16.

E. Stamp, Two, Three, Four - 4 times

- 19 Stamp R slightly fwd, bending at waist (ct 1); step sharply on R in place (ct 2); step on L in place (ct 3); step on R in place (ct 4).
20 Repeat action of meas 19 with opp ftwk.
21-22 Repeat action of meas 19-20.

F. Slow Stamp, 3 steps bkwd

- 23 Stamp on R (ct 1); hold (ct 2); step back on R (ct 3); hold (ct 4).
24 Step back on L (ct 1); hold (ct 2); step back on R (ct 3); hold (ct 4).
Leader calls "ee-ha" - the call for the Basic Step.

G. 4 Basic Steps

- 25-30 4 Basic Steps (6 meas, 24 cts). Leader calls "seči." (SECH-ee).

H. Seči - "chop" - as in "chop the tree."

- 31 Step sharply fwd on L (ct 1); hop on L, kicking R fwd, knee straight (ct 2); sweep R ft back crossing over L (ct 3); hop on L, kicking R fwd again (ct 4).
32 Repeat action of cts 3,4 of meas 31, 2 more times (cts 1-4).
33 There is a single staccato note: step firmly fwd on R, swinging L in front with bend knee (ct 1); hold (cts 2,3,4).

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ŠOPSKA PETORKA (cont)

PART III: FELLING A TREE - Dancers mimic the pushing down of a tree. When choral group sings "o-o-o-oh", dancers begin falling fwd on L, landing on L when group sings "ha". There is a slight pause. When group shouts "ee, ha, ha," dancers step R,L,R on the spot.

A. 2 Basic Steps - Fast music begins

1-3 2 Basic Steps, backing up to floor pos for "a sega" steps.

B. Transition Step

4 Step on L in place (ct 1); hop on L (ct 2); step on R in place as leader calls "krši (KER-shee) (ct 3); step on L in place (ct 4).

C. Krši - twisting step-skips

5 Step on R across L, twisting body to L (ct 1); hold (ct 2); hop on R twisting body to ctr (the hop is a skip) (ct &); step on L across R, twisting body to R (ct 3); hold (ct 4); skip on L, twisting body to ctr (ct &).

6-7 Repeat action of meas 5, 2 more times.

8 Repeat action of meas 5, cts 1,2; close L to R (ct 3); leader calls "ee-ha". Hold (ct 4).

D. 5 Basic Steps, Transition, Trojno (TROY-noh) - 3 times

1-8 5 Basic Steps ending 5th Basic Step with a stamping step on R (ct 29). Leader calls "trojno." Swing L fwd and across in front of R with a high swing (ct 30); step on L across R (ct 31); swing R slightly to R (ct 32).

E. Trojno: 7 steps L, R, L, Basic Step, Close

9 Step on R across L, bending fwd slightly at waist and turning head to L (ct 1); step on L to L (ct 2); repeat for cts 3,4.

10 Repeat action of cts 1,2, meas 9; step R across L swinging L slightly to L (ct 3); hop on R (ct 4).

11-12 Repeat action of meas 9-10, opp: ftwk and direction.

13-14 Repeat action of meas 9-10.

15-16 Basic Step (meas 15, cts 1-4 and meas 16, cts 1,2); step on L next to R (ct 3); hold (ct 4). Leader calls "ee-ha."
(NO HOP ON CT 2 OF MEAS 16)

F. 5 Basic Steps, Close, One Basic Step, Kopni (KOP-nee) - "Dig"

1-8 5 Basic Steps (cts 1-30): close L to R (ct 31); hold (ct 32). Leader calls "ee-ha."

9-10 1 Basic Step (meas 9 cts 1-4 and meas 10, cts 1,2); step on L sharply fwd (ct 3); hop on L, kicking R fwd, knee straight (ct 4). Leader calls "kopni."

G. Kopni, 3 scoops, 1 fwd kick

11 Swing R straight back with scooping action (ct 1); slight hop on L, kicking R fwd (ct 2); repeat for cts 3,4.

12 Swing R straight back with scooping action (ct 1); slight hop on L, holding R in back (ct 2); swing R sharply fwd (ct 3); hop on L (ct 4).

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ŠOPSKA PETORKA (cont)

- H. Squat jump, 3 strides fwd, 4 pas de basques backing up
- 13 Full squat jump on both ft (ct 1); rise (ct 2); stride fwd on R (ct 3); hold (ct 4).
- 14 Stride fwd on L (ct 1); hold (ct 2); stride fwd on R (ct 3); hold (ct 4).
- 15-16 Beginning L, do 4 pas de basque steps (2 per meas) backing up. Leader calls "ee-ha."

I. 4 Basic Steps, Savrti (ZAHV-reh-tee) - "turning"

- 1-6 4 Basic Steps. Leader calls "zavrti."
- 7 Step on L sharply fwd (ct 1); hop on L, swinging R to R (ct 2); swing R across in front of L with circular scooping action ^{TOUCHING FLOOR,} from thigh down and around, like the turning of a mill (ct 3); ^{WITH KNEES} hop on L, swinging R to R (ct 4). ^{BENT}
- 8 Repeat action of cts 3, 4 meas 7 (cts 1, 2); leap onto R (ct 3); stamp on L slightly fwd, bending upper part of body fwd (ct 4).

J. 4 Basic Steps, step fwd, Koši (KOS-ee) "scythe-like action"

- 1-6 4 Basic Steps. Leader calls "koši."
- 7 Step fwd on L, bending low, leaving R ft in back (ct 1); swing R ft around to R (ct 2); step on R across L, body bent, turning face to L, L ft held in back (ct 3); swing L ft around to L (ct 4).
- 8 Step on L across in front of R, body bent, turning face to R, R ft held in back (ct 1); swing R ft to R (ct 2); step fwd on R, straightening body (ct 3); hold (ct 4). Leader calls "ee-ha."

K. 5 Basic Steps, Zapli (ZAHF-lee) - "the end"

- 1-8 5 Basic Steps (cts 1-30). Leader calls "zapli." Step on L sharply fwd (ct 31); hop on L, extending R straight fwd in front (ct 32).
- 9 There is a single staccato note: strike R ^{ft} sharply to floor slightly fwd and to R of L ft (ct 1); hold (cts 2, 3, 4).

AS A GEN'L RULE THE CALL "EE-HA" COMES ON THE 1ST CT OR THE 1ST BASIC, AND OTHER CALLS COME ON THE 1ST CT OF LAST BASIC.