

# STARO RATARSKO

Serbian

PRONUNCIATION: STAH-roh rah-TAHR-skoh

TRANSLATION: Old farmer's dance

SOURCE: Dick Oakes learned this dance from Anatol Joukowsky who learned it in Belgrade (Beograd), Serbia, and taught it at the 1958 University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp (now the Stockton Folk Dance Camp). It is described in his book *The Teaching of Ethnic Dance* by Anatol Joukokwsky, J. Lowell Pratt and Company, New York, New York, 1965.

BACKGROUND: This dance belongs to the family of kolo dances known as U šest koraka ("in six steps"). Hillsides in Serbia are used mainly for raising animals. Pigs particularly forage in woodland areas. Dairy farming is a feature of the Šumadija hills south of Belgrade. Limited areas are sown with rye and oats. Orchards also are characteristic of upland areas – particularly plums, which form the basis for the production of slivovitz, a brandy that is the national drink. Owing to demand from western Europe, raspberries have become an important crop. Farming tends to be on a subsistence basis in the Serbian uplands. Rural families produce a range of crops for their own consumption. Some areas also produce tobacco commercially. In most villages vegetables are grown in garden plots adjacent to houses. Although woodlands in Serbia are plentiful, commercial forestry plays a relatively minor role.

MUSIC: XOPO (45rpm) X-315  
Jugoton (LP) C-6211 "Ratarsko Kolo"

FORMATION: Open cir of mixed M and W with hands joined and held down in "V" pos.

METER/RHYTHM: 2/4

STEPS/STYLE: The dance is done with small steps.

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## MEAS

## MOVEMENT DESCRIPTION

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INTRODUCTION - None.

### I. PROMENADE

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|------|--|
| 1    | Facing slightly R, step R (ct 1); step L (ct 2);               |
| 2    | Facing ctr, step R swd (ct 1); close L to R without wt (ct 2); |
| 3    | Step swd L (ct 1); close R to L without wt (ct 2);             |
| 4    | Step swd R (ct 1); close L to R with out wt (ct 2).            |
| 5-8  | Repeat action of meas 1-4 to L with opp ftwk.                  |
| 9-16 | Repeat action of meas 1-8.                                     |

NOTE: Throughout Fig I, take small steps and develop a slight tremble of the body with knee flexion.

## II. CROSS IN FRONT

- 1 Facing ctr and moving diag fwd to R, step R, bending knee (ct 1), low hop R with ball of R remaining on floor (ct 2); step L across in front of R (ct &);
- 2 Pause (ct 1); step R (ct &); step L across in front of R (ct 2);
- 3 Moving bwd out of cir, step R bwd (ct 1); step L bwd (ct 2); step R bwd (ct &);
- 4 Step L bwd (ct 1); step R next to R (ct 2).
- 5-8 Repeat action of meas 1-4 to L with opp ftwk.
- 9-16 Repeat action of meas 1-8.

## III. CROSS IN BACK

- 1 Facing ctr, step R swd, bringing L close to R ankle (ct 1); low hop R with ball of R remaining on floor (ct 2); step L in back of R (ct &);
- 2 Pause (ct 1); step R swd (ct &); step L in back of R (ct 2);
- 3 Step R next to L, pointing L fwd (ct 1); step L next to R, pointing R fwd (ct 2); step R next to L, pointing L fwd (ct &);
- 4 Step L swd (ct 1); step R in back of L (ct 2); step L (ct &).
- 5-16 Repeat action of meas 1-4 three more times.

Repeat entire dance from beg.