

SVRLJISKI CACAK
Serbian Folk Dance
Record Folk Dancer MH 3029
Collected by Richard Crum

Svrljiski Čacak

This dance comes from around the town of Svrljig, from which it takes its name. Danced in small lines of 5 or 6 dancers, using belt hold, no partners needed. The two principal steps are the "CATCH STEP" and the SYNCOPATED THREES".

NOTE: This dance is almost impossible to learn from written directions and these directions are therefore merely refreshers for those who have actually learned the dance with a teacher, or at least have observed the dance.

THE STEPS:

"CATCH STEP": With a slight preliminary leap onto the Right foot, step onto the Left foot in front of it. This may be counted "a-left, a-left" or if done to the Left with opposite footwork, call it, "a-right, a-right".

"SYNCOPATED THREES": These are three steps in place, accented on the first and held. You may recall it in class as the "mixed pickles" step.

THE DANCE:

Moving to the Right: Take two "catch steps" (a-right, a-right) then one syncopated three(L-RL). Step Right foot and lightly stamp Left foot near Right toe, turning a bit to the Right.

Then take two more "catch steps" (a-Right, a-Right), followed by two syncopated threes (L-RL, R-LR). Take one step on Left foot followed by one catch step moving to Right (a-Left).

Repeat the dance from beginning. Note that the last "a-Left" makes it appear as if the dance begins with three "catch steps" because after you start the dance there are three "catch steps" in a row, but it actually starts as described above. The transition from the end of the dance to the beginning of the dance is the tricky part to teach.

In teaching the dance, have dancers make one big single circle first. Do not attempt the dance in small lines until dancers thoroughly know the dance and make sure then, that the leader at the head of each small line knows the dance well enough to lead the others along. This is a challenge but most fun to do.



This record is one in a series of Balkan folk dance music issued on THE FOLK DANCER label under the direction of Michael Herman. Richard Crum, noted Balkan dance authority collected the dance and notated the directions.

ISSUED BY FOLK DANCE HOUSE, 108 West 16 Street, New York City-11.
Send for catalogs and brochures of other records.