

VALLJA E BRADASHESHIT “ELBASAN”
(Elbasan, Albania)

Source: Merita Halili

Recording: Seminar CD

Formation: Open circle of couples, W is to M's R (she is leading the dance) with “W” hand position.

Music: The rhythm of this dance is complex at the musical level. It is difficult to discern. I hear a Sqq S S(qq) Sqqqq which could add up to 25 beats, there is a rushed feeling at times as well. My Albanian informants think of the dance in terms of 7 dancer's beats where the 4th ct feels longer.

Meas

Slow Part

1 Facing center, Touch or Lift Rft in front of Lft (ct 1); Touch or bring Rft out to R side (ct 2); Hook Rft behind L knee (M) or L calf (W) (ct 3); Bend on L (ct 4); Step Rft to R (ct 5); Step Lft across and in front of Rft (ct 6); Step Rft to R (ct 7).

2 Reverse action (ftwk and direction) of meas 1 to L.

Note: During cts 3-4 M may squat. During cts 5-7 a 360° turn may be executed in the direction of the step (i.e. CCW to the R or CW to the L).

Fast Music

Dancer's cts: S S q S

1 2 3 4

1 Couples release hands and break off to face partner. Step Rft fwd toward partner (ct 1); Step Lft back to place (ct 2); Step Rft back away from partner (ct 3); Step Lft fwd to place (ct 4). Dancers hands may be held up and move about freely. Couples may dance around each other moving CCW and add turns and squats at will, and turn CCW or CW in place and bring R adjacent (almost back to back) to eachother.

Presented by Stephen Kotansky