

Amoliti Gaida

(Florina - Aegean Macedonia)

Source:

I first saw and learned this dance in 1967 from Simos Konstantinou, a very gifted dancer from the town of Florina (Lerin) in Greek Macedonia. Simos was a very flamboyant and creative dancer, full of expression, grace and power. Since first learning the dance from Simos, I haven't seen this dance danced in the immigrant Macedonian ethnic communities in the great lakes area, and other sources tell me that this dance is no longer part of the repertoire of dances currently dance in the Florina region. This dance is another variant in the group of dances often referred to as "Beranche", and found in area near Bitola and on south through Florina (Lerin) and the surrounding villages. What makes this particular dance unusual is its symmetrical 6 measure pattern as compared with the normal 3 measure pattern found in related dances like Pushtenu (Levendikos)/Bufsko.

Typically Beranche is played in a 12/8 (or 12/16) meter as follows:

$$\begin{array}{cccccc} \underline{S} & Q & Q & \underline{S} & Q & \\ (3/16 + 2/16 + 2/16 + 3/16 + 2/16) & & & & & \\ \underline{1} & 2 & 3 & \underline{4} & 5 & \end{array}$$

Whereas, Amoliti Gaida & Pushtenu are often played in a 16/16 meter as follows:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc} \underline{S} & & Q & Q & & \underline{S} & & Q & \\ ((2/16 + 2/16) + 2/16 + 3/16 + (2/16 + 2/16) + 3/16) & & & & & & & & \\ \underline{1} & \& 2 & 3 & \underline{4} & \& 5 & & \end{array}$$

Pronunciation:

Ah-mo-li-ti Guy-da

Formation:

Mixed lines of men and women, hands held up at shoulder height (most common) or hands joined as sides, wt on LF, facing slightly diagonally R of ctr.

Record:

Mendocino Folklore Camp 2004 -- Larry Weiner Balkan Dance CD
Florina FL-1C
Balkan Arts BA-705b

Meas. Ct.

Moving to CCW

- | | | |
|---|----------|---|
| 1 | <u>1</u> | Slight bounce on LF, lifting free RF slightly up in front of RF. |
| | 2 | Bounce again on LF, while moving free RF fwd in preparation for step CCW onto RF. |
| | <u>3</u> | Facing slightly diagonally R of ctr, step fwd onto RF. |
| | 4 | Slight bounce on RF, while moving LF next to, and behind RF. |
| | & | Moving CCW, step onto LF moving it behind RF. |
| | 5 | Moving CCW, step forward onto RF. |
| | 1 | Moving CCW, Step fwd onto LF. |

- 2-3 Moving CCW, Step fwd onto RF.
- 4 Turning to face ctr, step fwd (towards ctr) onto LF.
- 5 Facing ctr, Step backwards in place onto RF.
- 1 Facing Ctr, slight bounce on RF, lifting free LF slightly up in front of LF.
- 2 Bounce again on RF, while moving free LF bkwd in preparation for step back onto LF.
- 3 Turning to face CW (L) , small step backwards onto LF.
- 4 Facing CW, small step backwards onto RF.
- 5 Step fwd (CW) onto LF.

Moving CW

- 4 Repeat pattern meas 1 (with same footwork) but moving CW.
- 5 Repeat pattern meas 1 (with same footwork) but moving CW.
- 6 1 Facing Ctr, slight bounce on RF, lifting free LF slightly up in front of LF.
- 2 Bounce again on RF, while moving free LF bkwd in preparation for step back onto LF.
- 3 Small step backwards onto LF.
- 4 Still facing ctr, step sideways onto RF.
- 5 Turning to face R (CCW) cross and step fwd (CCW) onto LF.

This 6 measure pattern forms the basic framework for the dance, and the form out of which the dance is created anew each time the dance is danced. Feel free to add bounces, syncopated steps etc. As with many Macedonian dances, the leader of the line may, at any time, add their most treasured "ornaments" onto the dance. These would include turns, squats, leaps and other movements.

Presented by Larry Weiner
Mendocino Folklore Camp 2004