

# BABA DŽURDŽA

Skopje region, Macedonia

Source: Pece Atanasovski (institute at Oteševo)

Meter: 7/8. 7 even counts per measure.

Record: Macedonian Folk Dances, Folkraft LP-24; Novo Selo: Traditional Music of Macedonia, Balkan Arts Center BA-US-1001 (LP)

Formation: Mixed line, hands held at sides in "V" position.

## Measure      Movement

- 1a      This is an introductory measure; it appears as measure 1 only once in the dance, at the opening. Leap onto L moving right, L over R (counts 1 & 2). Facing slightly right, step R to right, bending knees (3 & 4). Spring up, replacing R with L (5). Step R to right (6 & 7).
- 1b      This measure replaces measure 1a every time after the opening of the dance. Hop on L, R crossed high near L knee (1 & 2). Facing slightly right, step R to right, bending knees (3 & 4). Spring up, replacing R with L (5). Step R to right (6 & 7).
- 2-3      Repeat measure 1a twice (throughout dance).
- 4      Facing ctr, leap onto L moving right (1 & 2). Step R in place (3 & 4). Lift onto ball of R ft (5). Come down again on R ft (6 & 7).
- 5      Hop on R (1 & 2). Leap onto L, raising R slightly (3 & 4). Lift onto ball of L ft (5). Come down again on L ft (6 & 7).
- 6      Repeat measure 5 with opposite footwork.
- 7      Repeat measure 5.

## VARIATION

- 1-3      Repeat measures 1b, 2 and 3.
- 4      Leap onto L moving right (1 & 2). Step R to right (3 & 4). Cross L over R (5). Step R in place (6 & 7).
- 5      Hop on R, lifting L slightly (1 & 2). Step L slightly to left (3 & 4). Leap R over L (5). Step L in place (6 & 7).
- 6      Repeat measure 5 with opposite footwork.
- 7      Repeat measure 5.

Note: The name means Grandmother Georgia. Mile Kolarov recounted the following legend to Ansambl Novo Selo concerning the dance: A Turkish administrator near Dračevo chose a Macedonian maiden to spend the night with him, during which he abused her. Told to dance the next morning, she could not. An old Macedonian servant woman, Baba Džurdža, offered to dance in her place, and the Turkish official agreed. The steps of the dance supposedly imitate the movements of the old woman. The story is said to have originated in the 1870s or 1880s.