

Presented by Atanas Kolarovski

BABA DŽURDŽA
Macedonia

This dance is from the region of Skopje. Atanas remembers dancing it when he was only 5 years old, but it is still danced today. Mile Kolarov, Atanas's uncle, tells the story which was handed down to him by previous generations, concerning the origins of this dance. Back during the time that this area was under the control of the Turks, an old woman named Baba Dzurdza was serving as cook to the local Pasha. While the Pasha was delighted with her cooking, when he wanted to be entertained he preferred young, beautiful girls. He asked Baba Dzurdza to bring her granddaughter to the court to dance for him. Grandmother refused, saying her granddaughter did not know any dances, but the Pasha insisted that she be brought and sent his servants to force her to come and dance for him. When the granddaughter was told to dance, she replied that she did not know how to dance, which angered the Pasha greatly. Fearing for her granddaughter's life, the old woman insisted that she be permitted to dance in the girl's place and finally was permitted to do so. However, since the old woman could only dance in a manner befitting her years, all the people in the court laughed and ridiculed her.

TRANSLATION: Grandmother Džurdža

RECORD: Songs and Dances of Jugoslovia, AK-005, Side B, Band 4.

RHYTHM: 7/16, Counted: $\frac{1,2}{1} \frac{3,4}{2} \frac{5}{3} \frac{6,7}{4}$ (S. S. Q. S)

FORMATION: A line dance with hands joined and down.

METER: 7/16

PATTERN

Meas.

Repeat Part A and B of each Fig. as many times as desired.

INTRODUCTION:FIG. I:

- A
- 1 Moving in LOD do 1 grapevine: Step L across R (ct 1), step R to R (ct 2), step-scoot L behind R (ct 3), step R to R (ct 4).
 - 2-3 Repeat meas 1, twice more (3 in all).
 - 4 Step L across R (ct 1), step R next to L (ct 2), hop on R (ct 3), step L in place, lift R leg fwd (ct 4).
- B
- 1 Lift on L, raise R leg fwd (ct 1), step R in place and lift L leg (ct 2), flex R leg (ct 3), straighten R while lowering L in front of R leg without wt (ct 4).
 - 2 Repeat meas 1, with opp ftwk.

3-4 Repeat meas 1-2.

5-8 Repeat meas 1-4, once more (2 times total).

Transition: On Part A, Ct 1 on repeat, stand on L and hop L instead of stepping L across R as at beginning of dance.

FIG. II:

A: Repeat Fig. 1-A

B: Similar to Fig. I-B, except with double flex as follows:
1 Hop on L (ct 1), step on R, lift L leg fwd (ct 2), bounce on R (ct 3), bounce on R, bending knee more for greater emphasis and lower L in front of R leg without wt (ct 4).

2 Repeat meas 1, with opp ftwk.

3 Repeat meas 1.

4 Repeat meas 2.

5-8 Repeat meas 1-4, once more (2 times total).

Transition: Same as in Fig. I.

FIG. III:

A: Repeat Fig. I-A.

B: Similar to Fig. I-B and Fig. II-B, but with cross step.
1 Lift on L (ct 1), step R in place (ct 2), step L across R (ct 3), step R in place (ct 4).

2 Repeat meas 1, with opp ftwk.

3 Repeat meas 1.

4 Lift on R (ct 1), step L in place (ct 2), step R in place (ct 3), step L across R (ct 4).

5-8 Repeat meas 1-4, once more (2 times total).

Transition: Same as in Fig. I.

FIG. IV:

A: Repeat Fig. I-A.

B:
1 In place, repeat Fig. III-B, meas 1.

2 Turn CCW using same ftwk as Fig. III-B, meas 2.

3 Repeat Fig. III-B, meas 3.

4 Turn CCW using same ftwk as Fig. III-B, meas 4.

Continued...

5-8 Repeat meas 1-4, once more (2 times total).

Transistition: Same as in Fig. I.

FIG. V:

A: Repeat Fig. I-A.

B:

1 Hop on L (ct 1), traveling sdwd to R with L slight fwd, step R,L,R,L (cts 2,&,3,4).

2 Hop on L (ct 1), in place step R,L,R (cts 2-4).

3-4 Repeat meas 1-2, with opp ftwk and direction.

5-8 Repeat meas 1-4, once more (2 times total).

As the dances increased in tempo or with variations, Atanas added a cut with R on Part A, meas 1, ct 3 (L behind R), "it should be natural."

This description is meant as refresher notes only, for use after having learned the dance from a qualified instructor. Proper styling must be learned in person as it cannot be adequately described in writing.