

Brestaška Růčenica

Dobrudja, Bulgaria

Brestaška Růčenica (breh-STAHSH-kah ruh-cheh-NEE-tsah) is a dance of the Gaguzi (Turkish speaking Christians) from Brestak, Bulgaria. It was learned from Belčo Stanev of Varna, and taught by Steve Kotansky at the 1999 University of the Pacific Stockton Folk Dance Camp.

Cassette: Steve Kotansky, 1999 Stockton Folk Dance Camp Tape, Side A/1.

Rhythm: Meter = 7/16 = 2/16+2/16+3/16, counted as 1, 2, 3 (Q, Q, S).

Formation: Open circle facing center, hands joined in W-pos.

Steps: Růčenica step: Step fwd on R with a slight sinking into the knees (ct 1); step fwd on L (ct 2); step fwd on R (ct 3). Ftwk alternates.

Čukče: Raise heel of supporting foot on the upbeat, and lower it to the floor on the beat.

Measures

PATTERN

6 meas INTRODUCTION. No action. Begin dance with vocal.

I. FORWARD, BACK, AND BACKWARD "S" TURN (Vocal)

1 Facing ctr, step fwd on L, bending knees (cts 1-2); Čukče on L, raising R slightly behind (ct 3).

2 Step bkwd on R (ct 1); step bkwd on L (ct 2); step on R beside L (ct 3).

3 Step on L to L (cts 1-2); step on R beside L (ct 3).

4-6 Repeat meas 1-3.

7-8 Beginning L, move fwd with two Růčenica steps.

9 With ft together, sink or plié, bending both knees (cts 1-2); hop on L, raising R slightly, and begin CW turn (ct 3).

10-12 Release hand hold and, beg R, dance three Růčenica steps in a bkwd-S (or rounded-Z) turn, first turning more than 1/2 CW to face slightly right of outward, then 1/2 CCW to face R of ctr as hands are rejoined. As the open circle expands, the hands lead playfully with palms down. During the first meas the R arm is fwd, with hand at or above head height; the L hand trails at waist level. During the second meas, the hand and arm positions are reversed.

II. STEPPING IN LOD AND BACK (Instrumental)

1 Facing R of ctr with most of wt on R and knee slightly bent, twist upper body slightly CCW and incline it to L, as straight L leg reaches across in front of R and L ft steps lightly in LOD (ct 1); straightening body, roll wt fwd onto full L ft (ct 2); step on R ft in LOD (ct 3).

2 Repeat meas 1.

3 Moving in LOD, dance one Růčenica step, beg L.

4 Step on R in LOD (cts 1-2); Čukče on R in place, raising L leg with knee bent (ct 3).

5-6 Beg L, dance two Růčenica steps backward (RLOD).

7-12 Repeat meas 1-6, turning to face ctr on last ct of meas 12.

Sequence: Repeat dance as written for a total of four times.