

DRAMSKOTO HORO

Bulgarian

PRONUNCIATION: DRAHM-skoh-toh hoh-ROH

TRANSLATION: Dance from the area of Drama

SOURCE: Dick Oakes learned Dramskoto horo from Marcus (Holt) Moskoff who learned it in the Gotse Delšev district of southwest Bulgaria during the summer of 1972.

BACKGROUND: Dramskoto is an urban dance from the early 20th century. The dance is related to the "strolling" Odeno or Pravoto type as well as the Serbian dance Šetnja. The village of Drama is located in South-Eastern region of Bulgaria in the Jambol district. It is part of the Tundža Municipality, the second largest by area in the country after the Capital Municipality (the city of Sofia). It covers 44 villages which are administratively equal. The municipality is equivalent to Jambol municipality, which is an enclave within Tundža municipality. It is distinctive that the Tundža municipality actually has no administrative center (it's in the capital city of Jambol). The Tundža Municipality is named after the Tundža River, the most significant tributary of the Maritsa River, and abuts upon the municipalities of Sliven, Straldja, Elhovo, Nova Zagora, and Topolovgrad. The area is flat and slightly hilly.

MUSIC: XOPO (LP) X-LP-5, side B, band 6

FORMATION: Segregated lines of M and W. M grasp shldr of neighbors in "T" pos, W hold joined hands at shldr level with elbows bent in "W" pos.

METER/RHYTHM: 7/16. The rhythm is slow-quick-quick (3-2-2) and is counted below in three dancers' counts. This is sometimes referred to as the "četvorno" rhythm.

STEPS/STYLE: The term "hop" used in these descriptions is a low raising and lowering of the heel only (called a "čukče").

MEAS

MOVEMENT DESCRIPTION

INTRODUCTION

1-8 No action.

THE DANCE

- 1 Facing diag R and moving in LOD, step R (ct 1); hop R, lifting L across in front of L (ct 2); step L across in front of R (ct 3);
- 2 Repeat action of meas 1;
- 3 Facing ctr, step R swd (ct 1); step L next to R (ct 2); step R next to L (ct 3);
- 4 Repeat action of meas 3 to L with opp ftwk;
- 5 Step bwd R (ct 1); step L in place (ct 2); pause (ct 3);
- 6-8 Facing ctr and moving twd ctr, repeat action of meas 1-3;
- 9-10 Repeat action of meas 6-7 moving bwd with opp ftwk;
- 11 Step bwd L (ct 1); step R in place (ct 2); pause (ct 3);
- 12 Step L next to R (ct 1); hop L, lifting R up in a bwd "bicycle" motion (ct 2); stamp R next to L without wt (ct 3).
- Repeat entire dance from beg.