

Gajda Preshevari

(Serbia)

This is a Rom dance from Preševo in the border region between Macedonia, south Serbia, and Kosovo. In 1998, Steve Kotansky and I first learned a faster version of this dance from Zahir Ramadanov, a trumpet player in Esma Redepova's Rom ensemble who comes from Koani in the Macedonian part of this area and who called it "Maško Oro" or "men's dance." Steve wrote it up as "Maško Koansko" ("men's dance from Koani") and I wrote it up as "Maško Romsko" ("Roma men's dance"). Steve later learned this slower version from south Serbia from the talented multi-instrumentalist Marem Aliev, and I re-learned it from Ray Gottschall. This dance belongs to the family of "Krsteno" or "crossing-step" dances from northern Macedonia.

Pronunciation: GAHY-dah preh-sheh-VAH-reh

CD: Marem Aliev, *Ssassa: Macedonian Dances* VAWMA 960909 Track 3.

Rhythm: 7/16, counted 1-2-3 1-2 1-2, or S Q Q.

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

Meas Pattern

BASIC

- 1 Facing slightly R of center with weight on L and R knee raised, dip or flex L twice (cts S,Q); step on R in direction of travel (ct Q).
- 2 Step onto L across in front of R (ct S); lift R knee in direction of travel or slightly across ahead of L (ct Q); step onto R in direction of travel (ct Q).
- 3-4 Repeat meas 2 two more times (3 total).
- 5 Facing ctr with L knee raised, dip or flex R twice (cts S,Q); step on L slightly to the L (ct Q).
- 6 Step on R twd ctr in front of L (ct S); lift wt off R heel while lifting L ft up behind R leg (ct Q); step back on L in place (ct Q).
- 7-8 Repeat meas 5-6 with opp ftwk.
- 9-10 Repeat meas 5-6.

VARIATION

- 1-3 Repeat meas 1-3 of Basic.
- 4 Step on L in front of R (ct S); shift wt back onto R, leaving ft in place and twisting L heel fwd or CCW twd ctr (ct Q); shift wt briefly onto L, twisting R heel forward or CW (ct Q).
- 5 Shift wt back onto R again, leaving ft in place and twisting L heel fwd or CCW twd ctr (ct S); lift L knee facing center (ct Q); step on L to L (ct Q).
- 6-7 Repeat meas 4-5 with opp ftwk.
- 8-9 Repeat meas 4-5.
- 10 Repeat meas 6.

From here, repeat the Variation, but replace meas 1 with a repeat of meas 7.

Notes by Erik Bendix based on the notes by Stephen Kotansky
Presented by Erik Bendix