

Kulska Šira

(Bulgaria)

Kulska Šira (KOOL-skah shee-RAH) was learned by Yves Moreau in 1974. This non-partner dance comes from the region around Kula, a town in N.W. Bulgaria near the border with Serbia and Romania. It is related to an earlier variation of a Šira taught by M. Moreau in 1972. The dance was presented by M. Moreau at the California Statewide Festival in Ventura, May 1989 and at the 1989 University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp.

CASSETTE: YM-UOP-89 Side A/2 2/4 meter

FORMATION: Mixed lines, leader at R end. Belt hold, L over R; or hands joined in "V" pos. Face slightly R of ctr, wt on L ft.

STYLE: Steps are light with a bouncy quality. Posture is erect and proud.

MUSIC	2/4	PATTERN
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Measures

16 meas INTRODUCTION. No action.

I. BASIC

- 1 Moving in LOD, step R,L (cts 1,2).
- 2 Facing ctr, step on R to R (ct 1); step on L behind R (ct 2).
- 3 Step on R to R (ct 1); close L to R, no wt (ct 2).
- 4 Repeat meas 3 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 5 Repeat meas 3.
- 6 Fall heavily on L slightly to L, bending L knee and sharply extending R leg across L, knee straight (ct 1); step on R across L (ct 2).
- 7 Moving sdwd, step on L to L (ct 1); close R to L with wt (ct 2).
- 8 Repeat meas 7 but do not take wt on R on ct 2.

II. BASIC WITH STOP

- 1-2 Repeat Fig I, meas 1-2.
- 3 Still facing ctr, leap sharply onto R ft in place, simultaneously raising L knee high with L leg crossed in front of R (ct 1); hold (ct 2).

- 4 Step on L to L (ct 1); close R to L, no wt (ct 2).
- 5 Repeat meas 4 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 6-8 Repeat Fig I, meas 6-8.

III. BASIC WITH STOP AND CROSSING STEPS

- 1-3 Repeat Fig II, meas 1-3.
- 4 Still facing ctr, step on L to L (ct 1); step on R across in front of L (ct &); step on L in place (ct 2); step on R beside L (ct &).
- 5 Step on L across in front of R (ct 1); step on R in place (ct &); step on L beside R (ct 2); step on R across in front of L (ct &).
- 6 Step on L in place (ct 1); step on R beside L (ct &); step on L across in front of R (ct 2); step on R in place (ct &).

Note: Meas 4-6 consist of 12 small crossing steps done in place.

- 7-8 Bending knees, take 4 smooth sliding steps (actually 7 steps and a hold): Step on L to L (ct 1); close R to L (ct &); repeat for cts 2,&. Repeat for meas 8, but do not close or take wt on final & ct on R ft.

IV. SYNCOATED GRAPEVINE WITH STOP AND CROSSING STEPS

- 1-2 Facing ctr and moving sdwd in LOD, light leap onto ball of R ft (ct ah); step on L in front of R (ct 1); leap onto ball of R ft (ct ah); step on L behind R (ct 2). Repeat for meas 2.
- 3-8 Repeat Fig III, meas 3-8.

DANCE SEQUENCE: Leader determines number of repetitions of each Fig, but always in sequence given above. Fig IV is optional.