

LAKOCSAI HORVÁT DALLAMOK
(Croatian Songs and Dances from Lakocsa, Hungary)

This suite of dances is based on steps and motifs from the village of Lakocsa in Southern Hungary. Lakocsa lies on the Drava River just southwest of the town of Pécs and across the river from the Podravina region of Croatia. The Croatians living in Lakocsa have kept the language, dance and song names, melodies and general style of dance of their South-Slavic neighbors, but have also added elements to their dances which seem more common to Hungarian dance, such as boot slapping, stamping and heel clicking. This particular recording is played by "Táncház" musicians from Budapest as a short suite of songs and dances. It begins with a "Drmeš" or "shaking" dance, followed by the popular song "Bečarac"; although this is not a dance, per se, I've choreographed a dance to it. The last dance is a "Kolo" which graduates into a solo men's slapping finale. I've purposely left the figures open so that each group who wishes to dance this "suite" can pick and choose that which they find most appropriate for their particular needs and talents.

Record: Hungaria Records HRLP-004, Side A, Band 3

Formation: Closed circle with either a back-basket or shoulder hold, or couples in a closed or open circle with the men's hands joined behind the women's backs and the women's hands on the men's nearest shoulder, facing center with the left foot free.

Music: 2/4

DRMEŠ

meas Figure I

- 1 Step L ft to L, knees bent (ct 1); close R ft to L ft, knees straight (ct 2).
- 2-3 Slight bounce or shake, 7 times (cts 1-&-2-&, 1-&-2); hold (ct &).

Figure II

- 1 Facing slightly L, leap on L ft to L (ct 1); tap R ft in front of L toe (ct &); cross and step onto R ft on front of L ft (ct 2); hold (ct &).
- 2 Turning to face ctr, slight leap with L ft to L (ct 1); tap R ft beside L ft, no wt (ct &); slight leap with R ft in place (ct 2); tap L ft beside R ft, no wt (ct &).
- 3 Slight leap with L ft in place (ct 1); tap R ft beside L ft, no wt (ct &); accented step R ft beside L ft, taking wt (ct 2); hold (ct &).

Figure III

- 1 Step R ft in place (ct 1); hop on R ft, swinging L ft fwd, leg straight (ct 2).
- 2 Fall onto L ft beside R ft and lift R ft slightly R side, knee bent (ct 1); click R heel against L ft, knees straight (ct &); repeat cts 1-&, meas 2 (cts 2-&).
- 3 Repeats cts 1-&, meas 2 (cts 1-&); fall on L ft in place, while swinging R ft fwd (ct 2); hold (ct &).

Drmeš (Lakocsaí Horvát Dallamok), cont.

meas Figure IV

- 1 Accented leap fwd on both ft, knees bents (ct 1); slight leap onto L ft in place (ct 2), tap R ft beside L ft (ct &).
- 2 Slight leap onto R ft in place (ct 1); tap L ft beside R ft (ct &); repeat cts 2-&, meas 1 (cts 2-&).
- 3 Repeat meas 2, cts 1-& (cts 1-&); tap L ft beside R ft, no wt (ct 2); hold on R ft and lift L slightly (ct &).

To fit this particular music, I've chosen the following sequence:

Figure I	8 times
Figure II	4 times
Figure I	4 times
Figure III	4 times
Figure IV	4 times

note: Figure I is the "Drmeš" step and could be done throughout the whole dance. Generally, it is the only figure the women do.

BEČARAC

meas

- 1 Step L ft to L (ct 1); step R ft slightly in front of L (ct 2).
- 2 Step L ft to L (ct 1); close R ft to L ft, no wt (ct 2).
- 3 Step R ft to R (ct 1); close L ft to R ft, no wt (ct 2).
- 4-12 Repeat meas 1-3, three times.
- 13 Bounce on both ft, turning slightly to face R (cts. 1-&-2), as singers sing "JEDEN DVA".
- 14 Repeat meas 13 facing slightly L, or leap on R ft and stamp L ft twice (cts. 1-&-2), as singers sing "HOP SA SA".

Dance repeats 3 times.

KOLO

meas Introduction

- 1 Jump with both ft, about 12" apart (ct 1); close ft together (ct 2).
or
Rock to L (ct 1); rock to R (ct 2).

Basic Kolo Step

- 1 Step to L with L ft, leaving R ft in place and bounce, knees straight (ct 1); bounce on both ft, knees straight and knees about 16" apart (ct &); bend L knee and begin to lift R ft slightly (ct 2); straighten L knee (ct &).
- 2 Step on R ft beside L ft and bounce, knees straight (ct 1); bounce on both ft together, knees straight (ct &); bend R knee and begin to lift L ft to L side (ct 2); straighten R knee (ct &).

note: This step is somewhat similar to the "Slavonsko" or Slavonian Kolo step in its open and close motif, only under closer investigation, one sees that the rhythm as well as the accent are different. Here we have a Q-Q-S and up-up-DOWN as opposed to the S-Q-Q and DOWN-up-up of the

Kolo (Lakocsai Horvát Dallamok), cont.

Slavonian version most often taught here.

It is also possible to use either meas 1 or 2 (with slight adjustment) to move in one direction.

Figures 2 and 4 of the Drmeš are commonly used by the men. So they they can be danced in even measured phrases, they are either lengthened or shortened by adding or subtracting leap-stamps.

MEN'S SLAPPING STEPS

These steps are used during the "Kolo" part of the medley.

meas Variation I

- 1 Lift on L ft, and extending R leg fwd, slap R boot top with R hand (ct 1); step R ft beside L (ct &); step L in place (ct 2).
- 2 Bounce on both ft, slightly apart, 3 times (cts 1-&-2).


Variation II

- 1 Repeat meas 1, Var. I.
- 2 Repeat meas 1, but raising R leg to R side, slap R outer heel with R hand on ct 1.
- 3 Repeat meas 1.
- 4 Repeat meas 2, Var. I.

Variation III

- 1-2 Repeat meas 1-2, Var. II, but, torso bent fwd, slap R boot top with R hand on ct 2& of meas 2.
- 3 Step R ft fwd or in place (ct 1); torso bent fwd, slap L upper boot top with R hand (ct &); step L ft in place (ct 2); slap R boot top with R hand, torso bent fwd (ct &).
- 3 Hop on L ft in place (ct 1); step R ft beside L ft (ct &); step L ft in place (ct 2).

Variation IV

- 1 Step L ft in place (ct 1); torso bent fwd, slap R upper boot top with R hand (ct &); step R ft in place (ct 2); slap L upper boot top with L hand, torso bent fwd (ct &).
- 2 Stand straight and clap R hand into L hand on (1&)-2-(2&) = 
- 3 Repeat meas 1.
- 4 Clap on cts (1&)-(2&).

Variation V

- 1 Repeat meas 1, Var. IV.
- 2 Step L ft in place (ct 1); slap outer R heel with R hand (ct &); step R ft in place (ct 2); slap outer L heel with L hand (ct &).
- 3 Repeat meas 1.
- 4 Repeat meas 2, Var. IV.
- 5-7 Repeat meas 1-3.
- 8 Repeat meas 4, Var. IV.

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