

MOJ HATIXHE
(Kosovo, Yugoslavia)

Moj Hatixhe is a woman's pantomimic dance-song which is danced throughout Kosovo by the Albanian population. It is danced in a free-style manner and describes the trials, tribulations and phases of a woman's life from matrimony to old age. Moj Hatixhe, as presented here, was collected and presented by Janet Reineck who lived and researched dance in Kosovo for two years. She is currently writing her master's thesis on the dances of Opoja, Kosovo. The instrumentation is song accompanied by the Daire, a tambourine-like instrument.

Pronunciation: MOY hah-TEE-jeh

Music: Jugoton CAY 603 or Garlic Press Productions GPP CAS 003
Side A/8 9/8 meter

Rhythm: 9/8 

Formation: Free about the dance floor (Generally one would dance to an audience).

MeasPattern

Introduction: Dance starts with the vocal.

- 1 Step on R ft fwd directly in front of L ft, turning body slightly to L, and extend R hand, palm down, fwd and L hand, palm down, back at about waist level (cts 1,2); step L ft fwd directly in front of R ft, turning body slightly to R, and reverse hand and arm movement of cts 1-2 (cts 3,4). Arms sink and rise with each step, wrists flexing down and up.
- 2 Repeat meas 1.
Note: This dance is arranged to include six different pantomimic variations. These variations are performed only with the upper body, i.e. arms and hands, and take place during meas 3-6. The footwork remains the same for meas 3-6 throughout the dance. Therefore, only the footwork is described at this point, after which each separate pantomime will be treated alone.
- 3 Step on R ft fwd in front of L ft (ct 1); rock on L ft back in place (ct 2); step on R ft back (ct 3); rock on L ft fwd in place (ct 4).
- 4 Repeat meas 3.
- 5-6 With 4 steps leading out to the R, walk a small circle CW (R ft cts 1-2; L ft cts 3-4; R ft cts 1-2; L ft cts 3-4).
Note: meas 7-9 continue on the next page.

Pantomime I. Putting henna on the hair.

- 3 Pull the fingers of the R hand, palm facing back, down along R side of head as if applying henna. The L hand, palm down, rests beneath R elbow. The arms form an approximate right angle (cts 1,2); repeat cts 1-2 on the L side with the opp hands (cts 3,4).
- 4-6 Repeat meas 3 three times.

MOJ HATIXHE (cont'd)Pantomime II. Don't forget me

- 3 With R hand held fwd at waist level and L hand on L hip, point index finger or index and middle fingers and wave R hand across to L (cts 1,2); wave R hand out to R (cts 3,4).
- 4 Repeat meas 3.
- 5 Wave R hand out to R (cts 1,2); wave R hand across to L (cts 3,4).
- 6 Repeat meas 5.

Pantomime III. Old Lady

- 3-6 With hands behind back, bend over fwd at waist. Upper body and head follow movement of the steps.

Pantomime IV. Children at my apron

- 3 As if releasing a child's hands from your apron or side, brush fingers of both hands at R side of R leg (cts 1,2); repeat at L side of L leg (cts 3,4).
- 4-6 Repeat meas 3 three times.

Pantomime V. Kneading bread

- 3 With hands in front of body at waist level, palms facing fwd and down, push heels of hands fwd (ct 1); turn hands toward body and draw back (ct 2); repeat cts 1-2 (cts 3,4).
- 4-6 Repeat meas 3. This action can be performed at half tempo if desired.

Pantomime VI. I wish I were a bride again.

- 3-6 Standing erect and stately, place R hand, palm down, onto L hand, palm up, in front of waist and hold there. Cast eyes down. Rock hands, starting by pushing heel of R hand down. Steps are very small.
- 7 Step on R ft back with arms extended out to sides (cts 1,2); step on L ft beside R (ct 3); step on R ft fwd and lift R hand in front at about head level, palm facing fwd, and L hand extending back low or at middle of back (ct 4).
- 8 With arms remaining in this pos and wt on the R leg, knee bent, turn CW to R by pushing off ball of L ft (out to L side)(ct 1); rotate on R ft (ct 2); push off ball of L ft (ct 3); rotate on R ft (ct 4).
- 9 Step back on L (cts 1,2); step on R next to L (ct 3); step on L slightly fwd (ct 4).
Variation: step back on L (cts 1,2); touch R next to L (cts 3,4).

Repeat the dance from the beginning, alternating the pantomime variations during meas 3-6 in the prescribed order. At the end of Pantomime VI (last time through) meas 9 ends by closing the R ft to the L and lowering the R hand to the R side (ct 4).

Presented by Stephen Kotansky

MOJ HATIXHE (cont'd)Text

Moj Hatixhe, moj n'shami t'kuqe
Ti ngjyn nona moj flokt e kuqe (2x)

Flokt e kuqe ti shitoft zana,
A po t'dhimen o baba e nona? (2x)

Baba nona-a dy vllaznija
Shkoj te burri o m'rrok pleqnija (2x)

Për kanaci o m'rrokin fmija
Lypin o buken o argashtija (2x)

Lypin o buken o argashtija
Mall i kom o tesha e mira (2x)

Translation

My Hatixhe with the red scarf,
Your mother will color your hair with henna.

Your hair will be red and charmed by the spirits,
Does it pain you to leave your father and mother.

Father, mother and two brothers,
I go to my husband and old age will come to me.

I go to my husband and old age will follow,
And the children will hang by my aprons.

The children will hang by my aprons,
And the workers will ask for food.

The workers will ask for food,
How I long to be a bride again.