

NATALIJINO KOLO

Notes by Dick Crum for *ŽviLA TAMBURA '93*

One of the earliest, pre-World War I dances in the U.S. kolo repertory, *Natalijino kolo* ('Natalija's kolo'), also *Natalija kolo*, was regularly done in the 1950's. Pittsburgh it was also called *Natalijanka*. Many of the old-timers knew lyrics to accompany the dance's melody. Here are some I noted down:

*Milane, Milane, ljubim te ja,
tvoja mi zvezdica najlepše sja.*

Milan, oh Milan, how I love you,
you're my brightest shining star.

Refrain:

*Haj, nek' se čuje, čuje, haj, nek' se zna
da je Natalija kolo vodila!*

Hey, spread the word, let it be known
that Natalija led the kolo!

or

*Haj, nek' se čuje, čuje, haj, nek' se zna
da j' jedna "talija" kolo vodila.*

Hey, spread the word, let it be known
that an "Italy" led the kolo!

DESCRIPTION OF THE DANCE

Formation Open circle or chain of dancers, mixed male and female, hands joined down at sides ("V" position).

Meter 2/4

Part 1 - Traveling steps right and left

Version 1: Simple walking steps

Meas 1 ct 1 Face slightly R of center and step Rft forward in this direction
ct 2 Continuing in this direction, step Lft forward.

Meas 2 ct 1 Continuing in this direction, step Rft forward.
ct 2 Continuing in this direction, step Lft forward.

Meas 3 ct 1 Continuing in this direction, step Rft forward.
ct 2 Continuing in this direction, step Lft forward.

Meas 4 ct 1 Continuing in this direction, step Rft forward.
ct 2 Turning to face center, close Lft beside Rft without taking weight on Lft.

Meas 5-8 Repeat movements of meas 1-4 to left with opposite footwork.

Version 2: Hop-step-steps

Meas 1 ct 1 Low hop or bounce on Lft moving forward, at the same time kicking Rft forward low, close to the floor.
ct & Step Rft beside Lft.
ct 2 Step Lft forward.

Meas 2-3 Continuing in this direction, repeat movements of meas 1 two more times.

Meas 4 ct 1 Step Rft forward.
ct 2 Hop on Rft, turning to face slightly left of center.

Meas 5-8 Repeat movements of measures 1-4, but moving to left (clockwise around) with opposite footwork. At end turn to face directly toward center.

Part 2 - *Malo kolo* steps in place

Part 2 is described here with simple walking steps. However, any of the higher-energy variants of the *Malo kolo step* can be done as well. The first of the lyrics often sung by the dancers is given in the second column of the description below.

Meas 9	<i>Haj,</i>	ct 1	Step Rft sideward to R.
	<i>nek' se</i>	ct 2	Close Lft beside Rft, taking weight on Lft.
Meas 10	<i>čuje,</i>	ct 1	Step Rft sideward to R.
	<i>čuje,</i>	ct 2	Close Lft beside Rft without taking weight on Lft
Meas 11	<i>haj,</i>	ct 1	Step Lft sideward to L.
	<i>nek' se</i>	ct 2	Close Rft beside Lft, taking weight on Rft.
Meas 12	<i>zna</i>	ct 1	Step Lft sideward to L.
	-	ct 2	Close Rft beside Lft without taking weight on Rft.
Meas 13	<i>da</i>	ct 1	Step Rft sideward to R.
	<i>je Na-</i>	ct 2	Close Lft beside Rft, taking weight on Lft.
Meas 14	<i>ta-</i>	ct 1	Step Rft sideward to R.
	<i>lija</i>	ct 2	Close Lft beside Rft without taking weight on Lft
Meas 15	<i>kolo</i>	ct 1	Step Lft sideward to L.
	<i>vodi-</i>	ct 2	Close Rft beside Lft, taking weight on Rft.
Meas 16	<i>la</i>	ct 1	Step Lft sideward to L.
	-.	ct 2	Close Rft beside Lft without taking weight on Rft.

Meas 17-24 Repeat movements (and, if singing, the words) of measures 9-16.