

RADNIČKO KOLO

Serbia (Yugoslavia)

The *kolo* as a national dance form played an important role in the social and political life of Balkan cities around the turn of the century. It became fashionable for professional societies, political parties and other organizations to commission the creation of a *kolo* to symbolize their solidarity. These composed dances bore names such as *Doktorsko kolo*, *Radikalka*, etc. One such dance was *Radničko kolo* ("Workers' Kolo"), a choreographic expression of the old Serbian left wing. Young radicals were reported to have staged early-day confrontations by bursting into elegant conservative balls and monopolizing the floor to dance *Radničko kolo*, sometimes so ardently that the police were called to restore order. Nowadays the dance survives in a number of variants in Serbia, though its original significance has become lost.

Recording: Festival FR 4020-A, "Radničko kolo" (must be slowed!)

Meter: 2/4

Formation: Open circle, integrated (men & women), hands joined down at sides ("V" position). End dancers have free hand behind back or hold lapel of jacket.

MEASUREACTIONPart I

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|------|---|
| 1    | Facing ctr, step Rft to side (on ball of ft), flexing R knee (ct 1); close Lft beside Rft, wt on balls of both ft, and bounce (ct 2); bounce again as in ct 2, but releasing Rft in preparation for next movement (ct &). |
| 2-7  | Repeat mov'ts of meas 1 six more times for a total of 7, moving gradually to R.   |
| 8    | Still facing ctr, step Rft to side (ct 1); hop on Rft in place (ct 2).  |
| 9-16 | Reverse footwork and direction of meas 1-8.   |

Part II

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|-------|--|
| 17    | Facing ctr, hop on Lft in place, bringing Rft fwd low off ground (ct 1); rock fwd onto Rft in front of Lft (ct &); rock back onto Lft in place (ct 2). |
| 18    | Step Rft beside Lft (ct 1); hop on Rft in place, bringing Lft fwd low off ground (ct 2).   |
| 19-20 | Reverse footwork of meas 17-18.  |
| 21-32 | Repeat mov'ts of meas 17-20 three more times, for a total of 4, then proceed to Part I again.  |

Presented by Dick Crum