

ROMSKA GAJDA

Rom(Gypsy)/Macedonia

Michael Ginsburg learned the dance from the Macedonian Rom (Gypsy) community in the Bronx, N.Y. This dance was originally done to gajda (bagpipe) melodies usually improvised. More recently, clarinetists and saxophonists play these melodies and attempt to emulate the sound of the gajda. This is currently a very popular dance done frequently at parties and celebrations in the Rom community in the Bronx.

This dance was also taught under the title "Bitolska Gajda", Idyllwild F.D. Camp 1992 by Michael Ginsburg.

TRANSLATION: Romska refers to the Rom (Gypsy) people; gajda is a bagpipe instrument

PRONUNCIATION: ROHM-skah GUY-dah

MUSIC: CASSETTE: Balkan Beauties -. '92 by Michael Ginsburg, side A, #3 (Bitolska Gajda I), #4 (Bitolska Gajda II), #6 (Bitolska Gajda III)
This dance can be done to any Rom music with a moderate 2/4 tempo.

FORMATION: Lines joined in V-pos

METER: 2/4

PATTERN

Meas

INTRODUCTION: Beg at start of any musical phrase.

- 1 Facing R of ctr - step R-L fwd in LOD (cts 1-2).
- 2 Step R fwd (ct 1); step L behind and to R of R (ct 2); step R fwd (ct &). (S,Q,Q)
- 3 Step L,R,L fwd (cts 1-2-&). (S,Q,Q)
Note: Cts 2-& (R,L) are smaller steps than ct 1.
- 4 Turning to face ctr- step R to R (ct 1); small lift L in front of R then pushes low twd floor (ct 2).
- 5 Step L,R - moving slightly diag L fwd (cts 1-2).
- 6 Facing ctr - move bkwd with 3 small step - step L bkwd with slightly bent knee (ct 1); continuing bkwd - step R,L (cts 2-&). (S,Q,Q)
- 7 Step R beside L (ct 1); small lift L in front of R as in meas 4, ct 2 (ct 2).
- 8 Repeat meas 7 with opp ftwk. (L in pl, lift R)

Presented by Michael Ginsburg & Belle Birchfield at the Laguna Folkdancers Festival 2000