

RUMENKA

East Serbian dance presented by Dick Crum.

Rumenka (ROO-men-kah, 'red apple', also a woman's name) is a dance widely done in Eastern Serbia. It is a member of a large family of Serbian, Bulgarian and Macedonian dances having a 10-measure dance phrase, although there are a number of dances called *Rumenka* that are in 8 measures. It is presented here as learned by Larry Weiner near the town of Svrljig several years ago.

Recordings: (a) Village Dances from Svrljig Yugoslavia, LW-1, *Rumenka*;
(b) Diskos EDK 5493, *Rumenka* (import).

Meter: 2/4

Formation: Men and women in short lines, facing center, using either the belt hold, or men's hands in own belt, women's arms linked through, or all arms linked.

MEASACTION

- 1 Step Rft sideward R (1); step Lft beside Rft (2).
- 2 Repeat movements of meas 1.
- 3 Step Rft sideward R (1); swing Lft slightly fwd to R and close to ground.
- 4 With knees stiff, step Lft in place (1); with knees stiff, step Rft in place (&); with knees bent, step Lft in place (2).

(continued)

RUMENKA (concluded)

MEASURE	ACTION
5	Repeat movements of meas 4 with opposite footwork
6	Hop Rft in place (1); step Lft slightly to L (&); step Rft beside Lft.
7	Repeat movements of meas 6.
8	With knees stiff, step Lft in place (1); with knees stiff, step Rft in place (&); with knees bent, step Lft in place (2).
9	Repeat movements of meas 8 with opposite footwork.
10	Repeat movements of meas 8.

The above 10 measures comprise the basic pattern of the dance. Native dancers, however, vary these steps, especially during meas 1-2. Examples of these variations are given below, and can be done instead of those described above in meas 1-2:

Variation (a)

- 1 Hop on Lft, moving slightly R (1); step Rft slightly R (&); step Lft beside Rft (2).
- 2 Repeat movements of meas 1, continuing slightly R.

Variation (b)

- 1-2 Two "threes", RLR, LRL, moving to R and crossing Lft in front of Rft on second set of "threes"; style is the same as in meas 4-5 or 8-9.

Variation (c)

- 1-2 Four "kerplunk" steps moving to the R, as follows:
With feet side by side, take a light step rightward on Rft (upbeat: uh-); close Lft beside Rft (1). Repeat three more times for a total of four.