

SELJANČICA (ĐAČKO KOLO)

Notes by Dick Crum for *ŽiviLA TAMBURA '93*

Seljančica ('peasant girl', 'village girl' or 'country girl') belongs to the earliest group of kolos the immigrants brought to the U.S. (around 1900). In the 1950's it had endured where other dances had died out, and it held unique sentimental value for dancers and musicians. In the U.S., the name *Đačko kolo* ('students' kolo'), a common alternate title for *Seljančica* in Europe, was known to tamburitza players, who occasionally came across it on printed music, but it never gained currency among dancers, who referred to the dance exclusively as *Seljančica* or, simply, *Kolo*.

Some musicians and European-born dancers knew lyrics to *Seljančica*, but few ever sang them at actual dance events, and U.S.-born dancers rarely knew any lyrics at all. Rudolf Crnkovich, prominent purveyor of sheet music for U.S. *tamburaši*, published the following lyrics to "*Seljančica Kolo (Đačko Kolo)*" as part of his series of mimeographed tamburitza scores some time in the 1930's:

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|----|---|--|
| A: | <i>Manite se Ančice
Karlovačkih đaka;</i> | Annie, stay clear of
the students from Karlovac; |
| B: | <i>Đaci đavoli
profesori još gori</i> | The students are wily,
the professors are worse, |
| C: | <i>a direktor pa najveći,
samo nesmim reći!</i> | and the director is worst of all,
only I can't talk about it! |

Other lyrics, noted down over the years:

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|----|---|--|
| A: | <i>Kad se cigo zaželi
medenih kolača,
on pošalje ciganku
u selo da vraća.</i> | When a gypsy man gets a hankering
for honey cakes,
he sends his gypsy wife
to the village to tell fortunes. |
| B: | <i>Grmi, seva,
vreme se menja,</i> | Thunder crashes, lightning flashes,
the weather changes, |
| C: | <i>a ciganke varošanke
još iz sela nema!</i> | but the gypsy city wife
still isn't back from the village! |
| A: | <i>Zagrebačke frajlice
nosedu šešire;
mamice na pijaci</i> | The young "ladies" of Zagreb
walk around wearing hats;
their mothers, at the market place, |

	<i>prodaju krompire.</i>	are selling potatoes.
B:	<i>Desno, levo, slama, seno,</i>	Right, left, straw, hay,
C:	<i>i mene će moja mati za mog lolu dati!</i>	and my mother is giving me away to my boy friend!

DESCRIPTION OF THE DANCE

Formation Usually an open circle, mixed males and females. Occasionally done in closed circle. Hands joined with nearest neighbors and held down at sides (the "V" position).

Meter 2/4

VERSION 1 - Classic *Seljančica* with simple walking steps

Part 1 - "Walking" *Malo kolo step* (4 + 4 = 8 measures)

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|----------|------|--|
| Meas 1 | ct 1 | Step Rft sideward to R. |
| | ct 2 | Close Lft beside Rft, taking weight on Lft. |
| Meas 2 | ct 1 | Step Rft sideward to R. |
| | ct 2 | Close Lft beside Rft without taking weight on Lft. |
| Meas 3 | ct 1 | Step Lft sideward to L. |
| | ct 2 | Close Rft beside Lft, taking weight on Rft. |
| Meas 4 | ct 1 | Step Lft sideward to L. |
| | ct 2 | Close Rft beside Lft without taking weight on Rft. |
| Meas 5-8 | | Repeat movements of meas 1-4. |

Note: The above pattern is subject to a certain amount of individual variation. Some dancers face slightly in the direction of movement (i.e., slightly to R or L) instead of facing center throughout. Also, in count 2 of measures 1 and 3, the closing foot may step in front or in back of the other foot rather than beside it.

Part 2 - Step-closes in place (2 + 2 = 4 measures)

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|---------|------|--|
| Meas 9 | ct 1 | Step Rft in place. |
| | ct 2 | Close Lft beside Rft, taking weight on Lft. |
| Meas 10 | ct 1 | Step Lft in place. |
| | ct 2 | Close Rft beside Lft without taking weight on Rft. |

Meas 11-12 Repeat movements of meas 9-10

Part 3 - Traveling steps to right and left (4 + 4 = 8 measures)

- Meas 13 ct 1 Face slightly R of center and step Rft forward in this direction
 ct 2 Continuing in this direction, step Lft forward.
- Meas 14 ct 1 Continuing in this direction, step Rft forward.
 ct 2 Continuing in this direction, step Lft forward.
- Meas 15 ct 1 Continuing in this direction, step Rft forward.
 ct 2 Continuing in this direction, step Lft forward.
- Meas 16 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 17-20 Repeat movements of meas 13-16 to left with opposite footwork.

VERSION 2 - *Seljančica* with hopping steps

Note: The description that follows has been an arbitrary, standard "high-energy" version of *Seljančica* for many years. In old-time practice, however, any variant of the *Malo kolo step* could be done during Part 1, and Part 2 was often done with simple walking steps as under Version 1.

Part 1 - "Hop-step-step" *Malo kolo step* (4 + 4 = 8 measures)

Facing center throughout, and using flat-footed steps of short-to-medium length:

- Meas 1 ct 1 Low hop or bounce on Lft in place or moving slightly R.
 ct & Step Rft sideward to R
 ct 2 Close Lft beside or slightly behind or across in front of Rft, taking weight on Lft.
- Meas 2 ct 1 Step Rft sideward to R.
 ct 2 Low hop or bounce on Rft in place, closing Lft beside Rft without taking weight on Lft; or bring Lft a bit forward low in air.
- Meas 3 ct 1 Low hop or bounce on Rft in place or moving slightly L.
 ct & Step Lft sideward to L
 ct 2 Close Rft beside or slightly behind or across in front of Lft, taking weight on Rft.
- Meas 4 ct 1 Step Lft sideward to L.
 ct 2 Low hop or bounce on Lft in place, closing Rft beside Lft without

taking weight on Rft; or bring Rft a bit forward low in air.

Part 2 - Step-kicks in place (2 + 2 = 4 measures)

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|---------|------|--|
| Meas 9 | ct 1 | Step Rft in place. |
| | ct 2 | Slight hop on Rft, kicking Lft diagonally forward/left. |
| Meas 10 | ct 1 | Step Lft in place. |
| | ct 2 | Slight hop on Lft, kicking Rft diagonally forward/right. |

Meas 11-12 Repeat movements of meas 9-10

Part 3 - Hop-step-step traveling steps to right and left ($4 + 4 = 8$ measures)

Facing slightly right of center and moving to right (counterclockwise around):

- Meas 13 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 14-15 Continuing in this direction, repeat movements of meas 13 two more times.

- Meas 16 ct 1 Step Rft forward.
 ct 2 Hop on Rft, turning to face slightly left of center.

Meas 17-20 Repeat movements of measures 13-16, but moving to left (clockwise around) with opposite footwork. At end turn to face directly toward center.