

ŠETNJA ("Walking")
Serbia

"Šetnja" (Shet'-nyah) was introduced by Dick Crum at the 1958 Folk Dance Camp at the College of the Pacific. He learned it from Miodrag Vuković, Belgrade folk dancer, in 1954, and also observed it at many gatherings in Sumadija, Serbia. In Šumadija, the central part of Serbia, Šetnja is a time honored traditional dance with a definite place in the "program". When a young man arrives at the field or churchyard where a festivity is taking place, he seeks out one of the many gypsy musicians who have come to town for the day, pays him a certain amount of money to play for him, and then proceeds to gather his friends one by one on his left. The dance they ordinarily do is Šetnja, and they meander about the whole dancing area gathering up people. When a large enough circle is formed, the dance is speeded up, ended, and "Moravac" ("U šest") generally follows.

MUSIC: Record: MJ 3029, "Šetnja", by Duquesne University Tamburitians.

FORMATION: Open circle. During the slow (beginning) part of the dance, and "escort" hold is used as follows: leader at the R end of the line holds vest with R hand and hooks L thumb in belt at L side. Other dancers join on, grasping or hooking on to R neighbor's bent L elbow, keeping own L elbow bent, and placing L fist on own hip or thumb in belt. When the music speeds up and the faster variant begins, dancers join hands down at sides.

STEPS and STYLING: Walking*: With a gentle flex of knees on each beat of music.
Hopping*: In part II, this flex becomes a definite hop.
Keep upper part of body erect.

MUSIC: 2/4

Measures

Pattern

NO INTRODUCTION

I. Walking (slow)

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|----------|---|
| 1 | Facing R and moving to R (LOD, step on R (ct 1); step L (ct. 2). |
| 2 | Continuing LOD, step R (ct1); step L (ct &); step R (ct 2); pause and turn to face ctr (ct &) |
| 3 | Moving bwd away from ctr, step with L ft. behind R heel (ct 1) step R behind L heel (ct 2). |
| 4 | Step bwd <u>Very slightly</u> with L (ct 1); close R beside L (ct &); s step L in LOD (ct 2); pause (ct &). |
| 44 meas. | Repeat action of meas 1-4 until music accelerates (11 times, for listed record.) |

II. Hopping (faster)

When music accelerates, join hands and hold low at sides. Add hops to steps described above as follows:

- 1 Facing R and moving to R LOD, step R (ct 1); hop R (ct &);
step L (ct 2); hop L (ct &).
- 2 Continuing LOD, step R (ct 1); step L (ct &); step R (ct 2);
hop on R while turning to face ctr (ct &).
- 3 Moving bwd, step L toe behind R heel (ct 1); hop on L toe, while
bringing R ft around in back, keeping ft. very close together
(ct &). Step on R toe behind L heel (ct 2); hop on R toe (ct &).
- 4 Step bwd very slightly with L ft (ct 1). Close R beside L (ct &).
Step L (ct &). Step L in LOD (ct 2); hop L (ct &)

Repeat action of meas 1-4 (fig II.) to end of music.

Although not sung on the recording, Setnja does have an accompanying song:

1. Dodji, Mile, u naš kraj, pa da vidiš šta je raj. (repeat)
Hej, haj, u naš kraj, pa da vidiš šta je raj. (repeat)
2. Prodje Mile, propeva, i volove protera (repeat)
Hej, haj, propeva, i volove protera (repeat)