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STIPSKO ORO  
 (Macedonia)

This dance comes from the region of Štip, in eastern Macedonia. It is still danced around this area at every opportunity. Part of its popularity comes from the fact that the musicians in the area move from village to village, and both the music and dance develop as they spread from village to village. The musicians often teach dances, although nobody teaches verbally -- just by demonstration. When the musicians dance, the village dancers learn by following.

Pronunciation: SHTEEP-skoh OHR-oh

Record: Songs and Dances of Yugoslavia, AK-005, Side B/6.  
2/4 meter.

Formation: Mixed lines. Belt hold preferred (L over R). W can use front basket hold.

Style: When moving to R or L, knees are very flexible. When dancing in place, use more moderate knee action.

Meas

Pattern

NO INTRODUCTION.

FIGURE I. (seven meas phrase)

- 1 Facing ctr, step R (ct 1); step L next to R (ct 2).
- 2 Step R (ct 1); lift L slightly (ct 2).
- 3 Step L across R (ct 1); step R (ct 2).
- 4 Step L (ct 1); lift R slightly (ct 2).
- 5 Bend L knee and step R to R with slight lift (ct 1); hold (ct 2).
- 6 Step L to L with slight dip (ct 1); step R next to L with slight lift (ct 2).
- 7 Step L with flexed knee (ct 1); slight lift on L, raising R knee to side, in preparation to repeat pattern (ct 2).
- 8-28 Repeat action of meas 1-7 three more times (four in all).

FIGURE II. (eight meas phrase)

- 1 Facing ctr, step R to R (ct 1); step L next to R (ct 2).
- 2 Step R (ct 1); step L next to R (ct 2).
- 3 Step R (ct 1); lift L fwd (ct 2).
- 4 Step L (ct 1); lift R fwd (ct 2).
- 5 Step R to R (ct 1); step L next to R (ct 2).
- 6 Step R (ct 1); lift L with R extended to side (ct 2).
- 7-8 Repeat action of meas 5-6 with opp ftwk and direction.

FIGURE III. (eight meas phrase)

- Following ft is closed to arch of leading ft throughout.
- 1 Step R to R (ct 1); close L to R (ct 2).
  - 2 Step R (ct 1); close L to R (ct 2).
  - 3 Step R (ct 1); lift L fwd (ct 2).
  - 4 Repeat action of meas 3, with opp ftwk.

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STIPSKO ORO (continued)

- 5 Step R (ct 1); hold, lift (ct 2).  
 6 Rock L,R (cts 1-2).  
 7 Step L (ct 1); step R across L (ct 2).  
 8 Step L (ct 1); slight lift on L, with R ft slightly fwd  
 in preparation to repeat pattern.

FIGURE IV. (eight meas phrase)

- 1-4 Repeat action of meas 1-4, Figure III, with L closing to  
 arch of R.  
 5 Step R (ct 1); lift L (ct 2).  
 6 Step L (ct 1); step R behind L (ct 2).  
 7 Step L to L (ct 1); step R across L (ct 2).  
 8 Step back on L (ct 1; lift on L with R slightly to side  
 (ct 2).

FIGURE V. (eight meas phrase)

Done with bent knees, ft flat and very close to floor,  
 giving a skipping effect.

- 1 Hop on L (ct 1); step R (ct &); close L to R (ct 2).  
 2 Repeat action of meas 1.  
 3 Hop on L and thrust R fwd (ct 1); lift on L (ct &);  
 step R (ct 2).  
 4 Lift on R and kick L to side, heel out (ct 1); click L  
 to R (ct 2).  
 5 Hop on R, lifting L and swinging in a small circle to L  
 (ct 1); step L slightly to L (ct 2).  
 6 Step R,L,R in place (cts 1,&,2). (Scissors.)  
 7 Hop on R, swing L in small circle to L (ct 1); step L  
 slightly to L (ct 2).  
 8 Lift on L, swing R to side (ct 1); click R to L (ct 2).

Figures change by call, indicated by leader.

Presented by Atanas Kolarovski