

Svornato

(Rhodopes, Bulgaria)

“Changing direction” or “to dance changing directions” is the translation of the name of this line dance, very popular and done on any occasion in the Rhodope mountains, Southern Bulgaria. Even though that region borders Turkey and has been under direct influence of the Turkish culture, a lot of the dances have preserved their pure Bulgarian-Slavic character. Svornato is one of them. The source is Groups for Authentic Dances performed at Folklore Festivals in the Rhodope Mountains.

Pronunciation: SVOHR-nah-toh.

Cassette: Folk Dances from Bulgaria - NK 1994.02 / B16.

Usually the dance is performed on either a song or a bag-pipe or both. The “kaba gajda” is a specific low-pitched Rhodope bag-pipe, not popular in other parts of Bulgaria. Any tune played or accompanied by it in 9/8, slow tempo, and with 6- or 8-bar musical structure is appropriate for Svornato too.

Rhythm: 9/8 meter (2/8+2/8+ 2/8+3/8) counted 1, 2, 3, 4 or 1, 2, 3, 4, &.

Formation: Open circle, hands joined in V-pos.

Styling: Because the dance is performed mostly inside (due to the cold mountain climate) Rhodopski styling for the dance does not have jumpy and wide movements, but bouncy, soft steps and turns. When done in open air, it keeps the same character. The straightened body is easily kept in that posture by the women's big buckles, worn high above the waist, and by the men's thick waist-bands. Steps are on the whole ft, bouncing on every count, slightly bend-knee position all the time.

Meas

Pattern

4meas INTRODUCTION. No action.

FIGURE I

- 1 Moving in LOD, small leap fwd onto R, bending R knee and swinging L heel bkwd (ct 1); step fwd on L (ct 2); step fwd on R (ct 3); step fwd on L (ct 4).
- 2 Repeat meas 1.
- 3 Repeat meas 1, cts 1-2 (cts 1,2); facing ctr, step on R to R (ct 3); close on L next to R without wt (ct 4).
- 4 Step on L to L (ct 1); step on R behind (optional next to) L (ct 2); step on L to L; close R to L without wt (ct 4).

FIGURE II

- 1 Facing ctr, step fwd on R (ct 1); step fwd on L (ct 2); step fwd on R (ct 3); tap R heel (ct 4); step fwd on L (ct &).
- 2 Step fwd on R (ct 1); step fwd on L (ct 2); step fwd on R (ct 3); step on L next to R (ct 4).
For meas 1-2, bring arms gradually up to W pos.
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk and direction.

Svornato—continued

FIGURE III

- 1 Moving in LOD, small leap fwd onto R, bending R knee and swinging L heel bkwd (ct 1); step fwd on L (ct 2); facing ctr, step on R ft to R (ct 3); close L next to R without wt (ct 4).
- 2 Facing RLOD, repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk.
- 3 Facing ctr, step fwd on R (ct 1); step fwd on L (ct 2); step fwd on R (ct 3); close L next to R without wt (ct 4). Bring arms gradually up to W-pos.
- 4 Step bkwd on L (ct 1); step bkwd on R (ct 2); step bkwd on L (ct 3); close R next to L without wt (ct 4).

FIGURE IV

- 1 Moving in LOD, step fwd on R (ct 1); small hop on R in place, lifting slightly L knee (ct 2); step fwd on L (ct 3); small tap L heel, slightly lifting R knee (ct 4); step fwd on R, bending R knee (ct &).
- 2 Step bkwd on L (ct 1); step bkwd on R (ct 2); facing ctr, step sdwd L on L (ct 3); small leap onto R in front of L (ct 4); small leap onto L behind R (ct &).
- 3 Repeat Fig III, meas 1.
- 4 Step bkwd on L (ct 1); step bkwd on R (ct 2); step bkwd on L (ct 3); small leap onto R in front of L (ct 4); small leap onto L behind R (ct &).

SUGGESTED SEQUENCE:

Fig I twice. Fig II once. Fig I twice. Fig II once.

Fig III twice. Fig IV two times.

Repeat this structure one more time.

Gajdana Sviri

Gajdana sviri, horo se vie (2)
Horo se vie, moma go vodi. (2)

Ot dolu ide ludo i mlado (2)
Horo si ima, horo igrae. (2)

A bre, junače, ludo i mlado (2)
Ajda da viem nie horoto. (2)

Eh, Mari Gano

Eh, mari, Gano, bela Gano,
Izgori ma, izsuši ma. (2)

A Bag-Pipe Is Playing

A bag-pipe is playing, a line dance is winding.
A line dance is winding, a maiden is heading it.

A young wild guy is coming from down hill.
Dancing his own line dance.

Hey you, young wild guy.
Let's dance together.

Hey You Gano

Hey you beautiful Gano.
You lit my fire, you made me glow.

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