

SVORNATO

TRANSLATION : The title of this dance is derived from the verb *svârŝtam* or *svârna*, Bulgarian for "to turn" or "to turn back"

ORIGIN AND BACKGROUND : This dance is from the Rhodope Mountain region in Southern Bulgaria.

Many authentic folk dances and songs from the Rhodope ethnographical region are associated with certain events, holidays and times of the year. They serve as an integral part of a ritual and have a function in the overall celebration. Nowadays many of these original and "occasional" dances have disappeared as customs and rituals die out.

Svormato Horo in the old days was reserved only for engagement parties, in Bulgarian called *Godeŝ*.

Today, however like many other old dances and songs, this one also lost its ties with the old traditions and is now being done yearround, both by men and women in the same line.

Svormato belongs to the most popular dances of the Rhodope dance repertoire. It is part of the group of dances that have a basic dance pattern consisting of three measures.

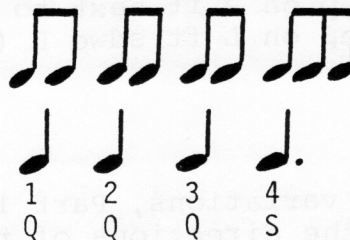
The musical accompaniment is either a song or played on the most popular musical instrument of the Rhodopes, the *Kaba Gajda* (a low-pitched bagpipe).

Some of the traditional songs used for the dance are: *Karaj Majčo* and *Gajdana Sviri*.

Another name of the dance, indicating Turkish origin is *Kârŝelama*.

MUSIC : Cassette "PAN BULGARIAN FOLK DANCES" -JL1987.01
by Jaap Leegwater. # II,4

METER : 9/8



SOURCE : Learned and collected in Bulgaria by Jaap Leegwater during field research in Rhodope villages in the winter of 1975 with the assistance of Tanja Tjankova.

FORMATION : Open circle. Hands joined in W-position.

INTRODUCTION : The tuning of the *Gajda*, usually two long notes.

Described here is the original and most popular village performance with one basic pattern.

Other related and more elaborated variants of the dance are *Svormato / Gajdana Sviri* (tape JL1987.01) and *Dvaŝti Triŝti* (tape JL1986.01)

DESCRIPTION OF THE DANCEMEAS PATTERN

- 1 facing diag R of ctr, moving in LOD,
 step ("fall") onto R ft, slightly bending R knee
 and swing L heel up (ct 1),
 step on L ft (ct 2),
 step on R ft (ct 3),
 small lift on R ft followed by a
 step on L ft (ct 4)
- 2 repeat action of ct 1-2 of meas 1 (ct 1-2),
 turning body face ctr, step on R ft sdwd R (ct 3),
 step and close L ft, without wt, next to R ft (ct 4),
 Note: This closing step sometimes also is performed as a
Globka (click and close L ft next to R ft)
- 3 facing ctr, moving sdwd L,
 step on L ft (ct 1),
 step on R ft next to L ft (ct 2),
 step on L ft (ct 3),
 step and close R ft, without wt, next to L ft (ct 4)
 Note: This closing step can also be performed as a *Globka* R.