

TRESENICA

Serbian Vlach

PRONUNCIATION: TREH-seh-neet-sah

TRANSLATION: Dance with small shaking

SOURCE: Dick Oakes learned this dance from Dennis Boxell who learned it from the *Jugoslav Dance Group* in England in 1961. Dennis presented it at the 1962 California Kolo Festival.

BACKGROUND: Tresenica is a Vlach dance. East Serbia is located between the Danube on the north and the Stara Planina on the south-east, along the Timok valley, along the border with Romania and Bulgaria. Romanians and Serbs live together in East Serbia and, like everything else in former Yugoslavia, customs and dances of these two nations are mixed. This mountainous region has many water sources. On the summits of the mountains of Homolje or Kucaj folks like to take long hikes. A particular phenomenon is that there are at least 15 caves open to the public.

MUSIC: XOPO (45rpm) X-312
Slavjani Records (45rpm) SLA 1003

FORMATION: Open lines of mixed M and W holding neighbors' belts in "X" pos, R arm under, free hand just behind hip for end dancers. If belt hold cannot be used, join hands low in "V" pos.

METER/RHYTHM: 2/4

STEPS/STYLE: RUNNING THREES: Three small running steps (cts 1,&,2). Feet are kept close to floor. Running Threes may be used to travel fwd or bwd and are always very small.

THREES: Same as Running Threes but danced in place.

SCISSORS STEP: Small leap in place onto L thrusting R fwd (ct 1); small leap onto R thrusting L fwd (ct 2). Thrust ft is kept low to floor.

HOP: This is actually a low hop (or "lift") where the ball of the ft does not leave the floor.

As with other dances from the very eastern part of Serbia, this one is danced largely flat-footed. The steps are small and close to the ground. Romanian Vlachs used to believe that tiny steps could drive out the spirits of the earth, so the small, quick steps may represent the most interesting part of this dance.

MEAS

MOVEMENT DESCRIPTION

INTRODUCTION - None. Dancers may start at any meas.

I. STEP-CLOSE

- 1 Facing slightly diag R, step fwd on R heel (ct 1); close L to R taking wt and bending knee slightly (ct 2);
2 Repeat action of meas 1.

II. RUNNING THREES

- 3-4 Continuing in LOD, dance two Running Threes;
5-6 Gradually curving twd ctr, dance two Running Threes;
7-8 Moving bwd out of ctr, dance two Running Threes;
9-11 In place, dance three Threes in place;

III. HOP-STEP-CLOSE

- 12 Low hop R (ct 1); step L slightly swd (ct &); close R to L, taking wt (ct 2);
13 Repeat action of meas 12;

IV. SCISSORS STEP AND THREES

- 14 Starting L, dance one Scissor Step in place;
15 Dance one Threes in place;
16-17 Repeat action of meas 14-15 with opp ftwk and end facing slight diag R;

V. STAMPS AND THREES

- 18 Facing slightly diag R, bending at waist and watching ft, stamp L flat on floor next to R (ct 1); stamp L again but with toe pointed to L twd ctr, standing upright (ct 2);
19 Dance one Threes in place turning to face slightly diag L;
20-21 Repeat action of meas 18-19 with opp ftwk;
22-23 Repeat action of meas 18-19;

VI. WALK AND TURN

- 24 Facing diag L, large step R across in front of L (ct 1); large step L (ct 2);
25 Large step R across in front of L (ct 1); rise on R and swing L across in front of R, turning to face diag R (ct 2);
26-27 Repeat action of meas 24-25 with opp ftwk;
28-31 Repeat action of meas 24-27 with low hop on L at end of meas 31 (ct &).

Repeat entire dance from beg.