

TROPANKA FROM DOBRUDJA

Bulgarian

Dobrudja comprises the delta of the Danube, currently under Bulgarian rule. But it was a part of Romania as recently as World War I. The Romanian influence in melody and steps is quite apparent. The music was recorded by Michel Cartier in Bulgaria. This version is popular in Seattle, Washington.

Music: Record: Folk Dancer MH 3056.

Formation: Circle, hands joined, shoulder high, elbow bent, W position.

Steps: Step behind, step-hop, stamp, walk, running step.

DIRECTIONS FOR THE DANCE

Meter 2/4

MEASURES

1-4 No introduction. Wait one musical phrase.

I. Five Steps

1-2 Beginning right, take five steps sideward; step right to right side, step left behind right, step right to right side, step left behind right, step right to right side. Circle moves counterclockwise. Stamp left heel close to right twice and hold (8 counts). Swing the arms down (extended) starting on count 1 and bring them up by count 5; the swinging down and up being a continuous movement.

3-4 Beginning left, repeat action of measures 1-2. Circle moves counter clockwise.

II. Step-Hop

1 Arms down at sides. Moving towards center, step-hop right, right shoulder turning toward center; step-hop left, left shoulder turning toward center.

2 Step right toward center (no hop), right shoulder turning toward center; stamp left heel twice close to right; hold.

3-4 Moving away from center, repeat action of measures 1-2, Figure II, reversing footwork, beginning left. (Repeat)

III. Walk, Run, Stamp

1 Arms down at sides, move in line of direction. Beginning right, take two walking steps.

2-3 Take three running steps (right, left, right) (quick, quick, quick); in place stamp left close to right (right shoulder forward) (quick); leap left in place turning left shoulder forward (quick); stamp right close to left (quick); leap right in place turning right shoulder forward (quick); stamp left close to right (quick).

4 Moving backwards, take three running steps (left, right, left); stamp right.

NOTE

The leader calls the figures (I, II, III) in any order. Usually, the figure is repeated several times before changing. The leader must anticipate and let dancers know before a figure is completed.