

## Varnenski Kjuček

(Dobrudža - Bulgaria)

This dance is from the region of Varna on the Black Sea coast. It is known under various names: Varnensko Horo, Gagaužko, Varnenski Tanc etc. This version is typical of the variations among the Gagauzi (Christian Turks) and shows a strong Turkish influence as well as general characteristics of Black Sea dance forms. The finger snapping represents wooden spoons.

Pronunciation: VAHR-nehn-skee kyoo-CHEHK Kjuček (an “oriental” style of dance) from the region of Varna

Music: 9/8 meter. 1-2, 1-2, 1-2, 1-2-3 or QQQS, counted as 1-2-3-4. The actual dance is mostly syncopated with a SQS (1-and-3-4) *Yves Moreau Stockton FDC 2013, Track 7*

Formation: Mixed lines, hands joined in W-pos. Face slightly R of ctr, wt on L.

Steps & Styling: Small and light bouncy steps. Slight knee bend. Proud.

Meas      9/8 meter

Pattern

8 meas      INTRODUCTION. No action.

I.      TRAVEL STEP.

1      Step R fwd (ct 1); pause (ct 2); step L fwd (ct 3); step R fwd (ct 4).

2      Step L fwd (ct 1); pause (ct 2); step R fwd (ct 3); step L fwd (ct 4).

3-4      Repeat meas 1-2.

5      Facing ctr, step R to R (ct 1); pause (ct 2); step L behind R (ct 3); step R in place (ct 4).

6      Repeat meas 5 with opp ftwk and direction.

7-8      Repeat meas 5-6.

9-16      Repeat meas 1-8.

II.      FINGER-SNAPPING WITH CLOCKWORK MOTION.

1      Snap fingers (thumb & middle) of both hands. L arm extended sdwd to L and R hand is closer to body, elbow bent (ct 1); hold (ct 2); snap fingers again with R arm up approximately in front of forehead (ct 3); snap fingers again with R arm continuing upward and slightly to R (ct 4).

2-4      Repeat meas 1, but arms continue motion to R and R arm becomes the one extended out and L arm the one closer to body. The complete “clockwork” motion takes 4 meas.

5-8      Repeat meas 1-4.

## Varnenski Kjuček — continued

II. FOOTWORK DURING FIGURE II

- 1 Step R slightly fwd with marked “dip and roll” action (ct 1); continue rolling action upward (ct 2); step L in place (ct 3); step R next to L (ct 4).
- 2 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk.
- 3-8 Repeat meas 1-2 three more times.

III. TRAVELING TO CENTER & BACK WITH HALF TURNS

- 1 Step R fwd twd ctr (ct 1); pause (ct 2); step L fwd twd ctr (ct 3); step R fwd twd ctr (ct 4).
- 2 Still moving twd ctr, step L fwd (ct 1); pause (ct 2); step R fwd (ct 3); step L fwd (ct 4).
- 3 Letting go of handhold, step R to R (ct 1); pause (ct 2); step L in front of R, body turning to face slightly R (ct 3); step R in place (ct 4).
- 4 Step L to L, doing a half-turn CCW to face away from ctr (ct 1); pause (ct 2); step R next to L (ct 3); step L next to R (ct 4).
- Arm movements (for meas 3): L arm begins to move to R in front of body while R arm is extended straight out to R (ct 1); pause (ct 2); L arm moves closer to body and slightly downward (ct 3); pause (ct 4). Bring hands up to W-pos on meas 4.
- 5-8 Rejoin hands and repeat meas 1-4 in opp dir, facing away from ctr and finishing facing ctr on final half turn CCW.
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.

Sequence:

Do each figure twice, or the leader can call the change of figure. The above figures often develop into an improvisational form at weddings and parties around Varna. The last time through, when the music speeds up, do Fig III three times.

Presented by Yves Moreau