

VELIKO KOLO
A Serbian folk dance from Yugoslavia
(Big Circle)
Record FOLK DANCER MH 1004

Veliko Kolo

This is perhaps the most difficult kolo done in the United States by folk dancers. It comes from the Banat section of Yugoslavia and is considered quite a special dance by natives. Whereas they don't mind if you enter a Kolo circle unsure of a dance, they DO mind in the Veliko Kolo. So be sure you are either invited to join or know it quite well. It takes many years of dancing with natives to acquire the right feeling for this dance, therefore these directions are actually useful to those who have had instruction in the dance. For the written word cannot adequately describe the subtle intricacies of what looks like a simple step in print.

FORMATION: No partners, dancers in a single circle facing center. Men have hands joined behind partner's back. Ladies place hands lightly on nearest shoulder of each man. If the dancers are not sure of steps, while learning they may just hold hands low.

Meas. 1, Count 1: Step to Left on to the Left foot.
Count 2: Close Right foot to Left foot and put weight on Right foot.

Meas. 2, Count 1: Step to Left on to the Left foot.
Count 2: Touch Right toe down in front of Left foot without weight.

Meas. 3, Count 1: Step to Right with Right foot.
Count 2: Touch Left toe down in front of Right foot without weight.

Meas. 4, Spaced irregularly through these two measures are three hop-steps:

Meas. 5. Hop on Right foot...step on Left foot. (Stress hop)
Hop on Left foot...step on Right foot (Stress hop)
Hop on Right foot...step on Left foot (stress hop)

Meas. 6. Count 1: Step on Right foot in place.
Count 2: Step Left in place or step on it in front of Right foot.
Count 2: Step Right foot in place.
Count 2: Pause.

NOTE: Difficulty comes in measures 4 and 5, since during the actual dance there are sets of tiny bounces between each of the "hop-steps".

NOTE: Natives sometimes do variations on this step, the men taking more lively steps, while the women modify the steps. Sometimes the women's steps are devoid of any hops. But no matter what the dancers are doing the rhythm and bounces are all the same, in strict unison.

Again, we suggest that the dance be learned from someone who really knows the dance well, rather than from written directions. It is the aim of every "kolo" lover to eventually master this very special dance. This record was recorded by native musicians from Banat.

Dance Directions from FOLK DANCE HOUSE, 108 West 16 Street, New York City-11
This record is part of a series of 300 folk and square dance records issued under the direction of Michael Herman. Write for additional catalogs, brochures listing activities and services.