

VRANJANKA

Serbian

PRONUNCIATION: VRAHN-yahn-kah

TRANSLATION: A woman from the town of Vranje

SOURCE: Dick Oakes learned this dance from Dick Crum who taught it to folk dancers in the United States in 1955. Dennis Boxell, Anatol Joukowsky, and Atanas Kolarovski also introduced dances by the same name.

BACKGROUND: The dance comes from Vranje, a town in southern Serbia. The most popular tune for the dance is Šano dušo, meaning "Shana, dear." It is also danced to the tunes Belo lenče and Oj ti pile. The White bridge in Vranje is a symbol of the city and is called "most ljubavi" (lovers bridge) after the tale about the forbidden love between the Muslim girl Ajša and Christian Stojan that resulted in the father killing the couple. After that, he built the bridge where he had killed her and had the story written as an inscription in Ottoman Arabic. Vranje is famous for its popular, old music, lively and melancholic at the same time. The best known music is from *Koštana*, by Bora Stanković.

MUSIC: Folkdancer (45rpm) MH 45-3020 (Šano Dušo);
Folkraft (45rpm) 1493x45 (Šano Dušo);

XOPO (45rpm) X-314 (Šano Dušo);
Monitor (LP) MF 356, side 1, band 1 (Šano Dušo);
Festival (LP) FLP-1505 (Belo Lenče);
Festival (45rpm) FEP-101 (Belo Lenče);

Crum, Dick. "Vranjanka" (sheet music), *Vranjanka and Other Yugoslav Songs and Dances*, Hargail Music Press, New York, 1954.
Geisler, Richard. Sheet music, "Lark in the Morning Free Music Library,"
<http://larkinam.com/LITMLibrary.html#Geisler>.

FORMATION: Open cir of mixed M and W with hands joined and held up in modified "W" pos: hands extended fwd at shldr level with arms gently curved.

METER/RHYTHM: 7/8, sometimes played strangely in 3/4), the slow-quick-quick rhythm (3-2-2=7) noted in dancer's counts below as 1,2,3.

STEPS/STYLE: The body, leaning bwd slightly to conteract the extended arms, is relaxed, the flexing of the knees giving a languorous feeling to the shldr and arms.

INTRODUCTION

None.

THE DANCE

- 1 Step R swd (ct 1), rise slightly on R as L is brought in front of R (ct 2); step L across in front of R (ct 3);
- 2 Step R swd with heel slightly turned out to R, body facing slightly L, and at same time flex R knee (ct 1); touch L ft slightly fwd to L and flex knees twice (cts 2,3);
- 3 Repeat action of meas 2 to L with opp ftwk;
- 4 Repeat action of meas 2;
- 5 Step L in place (ct 1); step on ball of R in back of L (ct 2); step L in place (ct 3).

Repeat entire dance from beg.

VRANJANKA

Šano Dušo
Serbia

/ Šano dušo, Šano mori, otvori mi vrata. /
Otvori mi, Šano, vrata, da ti dam dukata.

Šana, dear Šana, open the door for me.
Open for me, Šana and I will give you coins (engagement money).

Chorus:

Oj le le le le le, izgore za tebe,
Izgore mi, Šano, srce za tebe.

Chorus:

Oh, la la la la, burning for you.
Burning, Šana, is my heart.

/ Noć li hodi, divna Šano, ja si tuga vijem. /
Ubavinja tvoja, Šano, ne da mi da spijem.

When night comes, marvelous Šana, I twist in sadness.
Your beauty, Šana, will not let me sleep.

*Chorus**Chorus*

/ Tvoje lice belo, Šano, sneg je sa planino. /
Tvoje čelo gidi, Šano, kako mesešine.

Your fair face, Šana, is snow from the mountains.
Your forehead, Šana, is like moonlight.

*Chorus**Chorus*

/ Ona usta tvoje, Šano, kako rujne zore. /
Ono oko, dušo moja, mene me izgore.

That mouth of yours, Šana, like a deep red sunset.
That eye, my darling makes me burn