

NOVOZAGORSKO HORO

Bulgarian

PRONUNCIATION: NOH-voh-zah-GOHRs-koh hoh-ROH

TRANSLATION: Dance from Nova Zagora

SOURCE: Dick Oakes learned Novozagorsko horo from Jim Schlesinger who first presented it at the 1963 Kolo Festival in San Francisco, California.

BACKGROUND: This is a one-figure "military" dance from Nova Zagora in central Bulgaria. It is danced "na lesa," the Bulgarian term for a dance where dancers grasp each other's belts and execute their steps in a straight line. Novozagorsko horo is described by Boris Tsonev in "Bulgarian Horos and Râčenici," Science and Art Publishers, Sofia. Nova Zagora is a town located in the southeastern plains of Bulgaria in Sliven Province. The region is very fertile, growing a wide range of produce including grapes, sunflowers, and cereals.

MUSIC: XOPO (45rpm) XEP-308
Danssa (LP) 001 "Bulgarian Folklore Songs and Horos"
Slavjani Folklore Society Records (LP) SLA 1000 "Mushko Na Lesa"

Geisler, Richard. Sheet music, "Lark in the Morning Free Music Library,"
<http://larkinam.com/LITMLibrary.html#Geisler>.

FORMATION: Short lines of mixed M and W with hands holding belts of neighbors, L arm over neighbor's R, elbows mostly relaxed but with a dancer's tension. If belt hold cannot be used, join hands low in "V" pos.

METER/RHYTHM: 4/4

STEPS/STYLE: The style is simple, rustic, and unsophisticated

MEAS

MOVEMENT DESCRIPTION

INTRODUCTION - at leader's whim.

THE DANCE

- 1 Facing ctr, step fwd L (ct 1);
- 2 Step fwd R (ct 1);

- 3 Jump to both ft apart in place (ct 1); jump to both ft together in place (ct 3);
- 4 Step bwd R (ct 1);
- 5 Step bwd L (ct 1);
- 6 Jump to both ft apart in place (ct 1), jump to both ft together in place (ct 3).
- 7 Leap R swd (ct 1), momentarily take wt on ball of L ft in front of R (ct 2); take wt on R in place (ct 3);
- 8 Leap L swd (ct 1); momentarily take wt on ball of R ft in front of L (ct 2); take wt on L in place (ct 3);
- 9 Leap R in place, raising L knee high with lower leg angled so that L ft is in front of R shin (ct 1); reverse action of ct 1 with opp ftwk (ct 3);
- 10 Repeat action of ct 1, meas 9 (ct 1); leap L in place, raising R up to side and slightly back (ct 3).
- 11 Close R to L forcefully with a click (ct 1); pause (cts 2-3); change wt and raise L up to side and slightly back preparing to close (ct 4).
- 12 Reverse action of meas 11 with opp ftwk.
- 13-14 Repeat action of meas 11-12.
- 15 Stamp R next to and slightly fwd of L (ct 1); step back R behind and perpendicular to L heel and simultaneously lift L slightly without turning ft while twisting upper body to face R (ct 3);
- 16 Step L in place, turning upper body to face fwd (ct 1); describe small CCW arc close to ground with R, bringing it beside L (cts 2-3); lift R ft beside lower part of L calf (ct 4);
- 17 Stamp R next to L, taking wt (ct 1); stamp L next to R, taking wt (ct 3);
- 18 Stamp R next to L, taking wt (ct 1); pause (cts 2-3-4).
- 19 Step L swd (ct 1); step R across in back of L (ct 3);
- 20 Step L swd (ct 1); step R across in back of L (ct 3);
- 21 Step L swd (ct 1); lift R knee in front of L (ct 3);
- 22 Step R swd (ct 1); step L across in back of R (ct 3);
- 23 Step R swd (ct 1); step L across in back of R (ct 3);
- 24 Step R swd (ct 1); leaning slightly fwd, raise or flare L leg bwd (ct 3).

Repeat entire dance from beg.