

TEŠKO ORO

Serbian

PRONUNCIATION: TESH-koh OH-roh

TRANSLATION: Hard (or heavy) dance

SOURCE: Dick Oakes learned Teško oro from members of the AMAN Folk Ensemble (aka, AMAN International Music and Dance Company) of Los Angeles, California, who learned this dance from Danica and Ljubica Janković, *Narodne Igre*, and taught it at the 1971 AMAN Institute. John Filcich taught it at the 1971 Idyllwild Folk Dance Workshop.

BACKGROUND: Teško oro, also known as Deli Aguš, is considered a Serbian dance, although it is from the Gnjilane area of Kosovo (about 10 miles from the Serbian border). In World War II there was a significant amount of activity in and around Gnjilane by the Partisans fighting against Nazi Germany and her allies. Monuments to these actions can still be found today. Gnjilane has also served as the regional headquarters of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), an International Police task force, since 1999. Kosovo is the subject of a territorial dispute between the Republic of Kosovo and the Republic of Serbia. The Republic of Kosovo unilaterally declared independence on February 17, 2008, but Serbia continued to claim it as part of its own sovereign territory. The two governments began to normalize relations in 2013, as part of the Brussels Agreement.

MUSIC: Festival Records (45rpm) FR-4109-B

FORMATION: Hands grasping neighbors' belts in "X" hold, left arm over, M in one line, W in another, the two lines separated by a handkerchief. May also be seen in mixed lines of M and W with hands joined and held at shldr level in "W" pos.

METER/RHYTHM: 3/4

STEPS/STYLE: Light but controlled.

MEAS

MOVEMENT DESCRIPTION

INTRODUCTION - None.

THE DANCE

- 1 Facing ctr, step R swd (ct 1), step L across in front of R (ct 2), pause (ct 3),
- 2 Step R swd (ct 1), raise L in front of R (ct 2), pause (ct 3),
- 3 Step L bwd (ct 1), raise R in front of L (ct 2), pause (ct 3),
- 4 Step R bwd (ct 1), raise L in front of R (ct 2), pause (ct 3),
- 5 Step L in place (ct 1), step R in place (ct 2), step L in place (ct 3).

NOTE: As steps are made in place, other heel is raised slightly, making the steps very light.

VARIATION

- 1-4 Repeat action of Fig I, meas 1-4,
- 5 Step L across in front of R (ct 1), pause (cts 2,3).

Repeat entire dance from beg.