

Čardaš

Podravina, Croatia

Croatian Podravina is located between the region of Bilogora on the south, Slavonija Region on the east, the Hungarian border to the north and the Medjimurje and Zagorje Regions on the west. Podravina translates, near the Drava River. Because of its proximity to the border with Hungary and history of domination by the Austro-Hungarian Empire, there is a predominant Hungarian influence in the region's folk traditions, which is especially evident in the village of Ždala. Čardaš is one of the most popular dances done there, as well as in the village of Repaš. There are several variations of Čardaš in both of these villages, but they are all done to the same music. The first variation is the original version, while the second shows the influence of the village choreographers. Dancing was always done for wedding festivities, but more recently is done at other village celebrations, as well. The original musical accompaniment was strictly the violin, but today also includes the tamburitza instruments.

TRANSLATION: A Hungarian style of dance

PRONUNCIATION: CHAR-dahsh

CD: "Sviraj Svirče Drmeša" by Skitnice, track # 14

FORMATION: Cpls facing with M back to ctr. Two hands joined straight across in V-pos.

STEPS: Double Čardaš to L: (Both use same ftwk)
Meas 1: Step L to L (ct 1); close R beside L (ct 2).
Meas 2: Step L to L (ct 1); close R beside L, no wt (ct 2).
Note: Flex knees on each step.

Bokazo: (Both use same ftwk)
Meas 1: Hop on L as R touches fwd in front of L (ct 1); jump onto both ft with ft slightly apart (ct 2).
Meas 2: Close ft tog sharply (ct 1); hold (ct 2).

Open rida: (Both use same ftwk)
Walk L fwd (ct 1); step R slightly fwd of L with knee bent slightly (ct 2).

Two-step: (W use opp ftwk)
M - step fwd on L heel (ct 1); step R fwd beside L heel (ct &); step L fwd (ct 2).

HANDS: When hands are free, M placed them low on hip with fingers fwd; W hands on hips with fingers fwd.

POSITIONS: Closed pos:
Cpls join with R hip in front of ptrs R hip. ML hand on W upper R arm, L hand on W shldr-blade. WR hand on top of ML upper arm, L hand on MR shldr.

METER: 2/4

PATTERN

Meas.

INTRODUCTION: 4 meas

A FIG. 1: Čardaš & Bokazo (Both use same ftwk)

1-2 Double Čardaš to L.

3-4 Bokazo (hop L, tch R fwd) 5-16 Repeat meas 1-4, alternating ftwk, 3 more times. (4 in all)

B FIG. II: Rida (Both use same ftwk)

- 1-6 Cpls join in closed pos - and beg L, do 6 open rida steps turning twice.
- 7 With M back to ctr, and opening bkwd to two-hands joined in V-pos - step L bkwd (ct 1); hold (ct 2).
- 8 Small jump bkwd onto both ft (ct 1); hold (ct 2).

A FIG. III: Move LOD & W=s turn (Use opp ftwk)

- Turning to face LOD (CCW) with inside hands joined in V-pos with M on inside of circle.
M back of hand in small of own back, W hand on waist with fingers fwd.
- 1-4 Do 4 two-steps fwd in LOD (CCW), beg on outside ft (ML, WR).
- 5-6 Do 2 slow walks fwd (M-L,R; W-R,L). (1 step per meas)
- 7 Do 2 faster walks fwd (M- L,R; W-R,L) (cts 1-2).
- 8 Jump fwd on both ft while turning to face ptr - joined hands swing bkwd (in RLOD) (ct 1); hold (ct 2).
- 9-10 Moving in LOD - M turn WR (CW) once under joined hands:
M, move sdwd L: Step L to L (ct 1); close R beside L (ct 2). Step L to L (ct 1); stamp R beside L (ct 2).
W turn CW: Step R,L,R in LOD (cts 1-2, 1); stamp L beside R (ct 2).
- 11-12 Repeat meas 1-2 moving in RLOD with opp ftwk (W turn L (CCW).
- 13 Moving sdwd in LOD - M step L to I (ct 1); R behind L (ct 2). W use opp ftwk.
- 14-16 Repeat meas 13, 3 more times. (4 in all).

B FIG. IV: Rida & Leap with Stamps (Both use same ftwk)

- 1-4 With M back to ctr and in closed pos - do 4 open rida steps turning once, both beg L.
- 5 Small leap on L in place (ct 1); stamp R beside L, 2 times) (cts 2,&).
- 6 Repeat meas 5 with opp ftwk. (Leap R, stamp L)
- 7 Step L bkwd (ct 1); hold (ct 2).
- 8 Small jump bkwd onto both ft (ct 1); hold (ct 2).

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Dance notes by Željko Jergan and Dorothy Daw, 11-01

