

ČERKESKATA (Bulgarian)

- TRANSLATION AND BACKGROUND : The name of this dance, "the Circassian one", indicates influences from abroad. The Circassians are a tribe from the Caucasus Mountains, who settled in Bulgaria after 1864. They were known as skilful horsemen and Čerkeskata's basic step reflects the hoofbeats of their horses.
Čerkesko Horo's and *Čerkeskata's* are particularly popular in the district of the town of Veliko Turnovo, Northren Bulgaria (Severniasko).
This version is notated and learned by Jaap Leegwater in september 1982 from the local folklore group in the village of Pavel.
- MUSIC : Record "Folk Dances from Bulgaria - 2"
Balkanton BHA 11134. Side B. Band 4.
- FORMATION : Line or open circle.
Hands: belt hold or V-position.
- METER : 9/8 : 1-2, 1-2, 1-2, 1-2-3. Counted here as:
1 , 2 , 3 , 4 & "ah"
- INTRODUCTION : 8 measures

MEAS PATTERN Part 1 "Forward-Backward"

- 1 facing and moving diag R fwd, three walking steps R,L,R (cts 1-3), close and step without weight on L ft next to R ft
- 2 repeat action of meas 1, moving diag L bkwd and starting with the L ft
- 3-4 repeat action of meas 1-2, reversing ftwk and direction
- 5-8 facing ctr and moving straight fwd and bkwd, repeat ftwk of meas 1-2 two times

Part 2 "In place"

- 1 step on R ft in place (ct 1), tap L heel beside R toes (ct &), step on L ft in place (ct 2), tap R heel beside L toes (ct &), step on R ft in place (ct 3), brushing L ft slightly sdwd to the front (ct &), step on L ft in front of R ft (ct 4), step on R ft in place raising L knee (ct &), tap L heel in front of R ft (ct ah)
- 2 repeat action of meas 1, reversing ftwk
- 3-4 repeat action of meas 1-2
- N.B. --transition Part 2 - Part 3 :
change the last tap on ct "ah" of meas 4 into hold

Part 3 "Sideward" - I

- 1 facing ctr, step on R ft in front of L ft (ct 1), fall on L ft in place (ct &), step on R ft diag R fwd (ct 2), fall on L ft in place (ct &), step on R ft in front of L ft (ct 3), fall on L ft in place (ct &), step on R ft diag R fwd (ct &), slightly raising R leg diag R (ct "ah")

(continued)

ČERKESKATA (continued)

- 2 a small jump on both feet together in place, knees slightly bent (ct 1), leap on R ft swinging L heel behind (ct 2) step on L ft sdwd L (ct 3), cross and step on R ft behind L (ct &) step on L ft sdwd L (ct 4), cross and fall on R ft in front of L ft (ct &), swinging L ft sdwd L, close to the floor, to the front (ct "ah")
- 3-4 repeat action of meas 1-2 reversing ftwk and direction
- 5-8 repeat action of meas 1-4

Part 4 "Sideward" - II

- 1 leap on R ft sdwd R (ct 1), cross and step on L ft in front of R ft (ct &), step on R ft in place (ct 2), step on L ft sdwd L (ct &), cross and step on R ft in front of L ft (ct 3), step on L ft sdwd L (ct &), cross and step on R ft in front of L ft (ct 4), step on L ft sdwd L, raising R knee (ct &), hold (ct "ah")
- 2 step on R ft in place (ct 1), tap L heel beside R toes (ct &), step on L ft in place (ct 2), tap R heel beside L toes (ct &), fall on R ft in place, swinging L ft sdwd L, close to the floor, to the front (ct 3), step on L ft in front of R ft (ct 4), fall on R ft raising L knee (ct &), hold (ct "ah")
- 3-4 repeat action of meas 1-2, reversing ftwk and direction
- 5-8 repeat action of meas 1-4

Introduction : 8 measures

Part 1	}	2x
Part 2		
Part 3		
Part 2		
Part 4		

Part 1
Part 2

N.B. Finish the dance by changing Part 2 meas 4 ct 3-4 into :
leap on L ft in place, raising R knee (ct 3),
close and stamp on R ft next to L ft (ct 4)

Presented at the 1984 Mendocino Folklore Camp by
Jaap Leegwater.