

CIGANSKOTO

Bulgaria

Ciganskoto (tsee-GAHN-sko-to, "Gypsy horo") was, up until very recently, one of the favorite dances of the Bulgarian/Macedonian ethnic communities in the U.S. I first learned it in 1951 from Mrs. Diana Jordanoff, one of the finest dancers among the older immigrants in West Mifflin, Pa. Later I danced it many times at ethnic picnics and *večerinki* (evening dance parties) in Pennsylvania and Ohio, often to the playing of the late Kime Nanchoff and his band. (Nanchoff's *Ciganskoto* is preserved on the recording below.)

U.S. and Canadian folk dancers will recognize the dance as a variant of the well-known *Eleno mome*. Both dances belong to a family of Bulgarian horos that originated in northern Bulgaria and spread to all parts of that country and Macedonia in the period between World Wars I and II.

As played by Nanchoff, *Ciganskoto* may be notated in 7/8 meter, each measure having 4 dancer's beats in a slow-slow-quick-slow pattern:

Dancer's beats (counts)	1	2	3	4
Rhythm	S	S	q	S
7/8 notation	♩	♩	♩	♩

Recording: XOPO 313 (45 rpm), "Ciganskoto"; (incidentally, the flip side is mislabelled "Skudrinka"; it is actually the Macedonian "Skopska crnogorka.")

Formation: Open circle or line, integrated (M & W), hands joined down at sides. Leader and end dancer have free hand on hip or small of back, or leader may flourish handkerchief.

MEASUREACTION

NOTE: All "steps" below are in a running style.

- 1 Facing slightly R of ctr, step Rft fwd in this direction (1); step Lft fwd in this direction (2); facing ctr, step Rft R (3); step Lft behind Rft (4).
- 2 Same mov'ts as in meas 1, continuing to move to R.
- 3 Facing ctr, step Rft sdwd R (1); hop on Rft in place (2); step Lft sdwd L (3); step Rft behind Lft (4).
- 4 Facing slightly L of ctr, step Lft fwd in this direction (1); step Rft fwd in this direction (2); facing ctr, step Lft L (3); step Rft behind Lft (4).
- 5 Facing ctr, step Lft sdwd L (1); hop on Lft in place (2); step Rft sdwd R (3); step Lft behind Rft (4).

Start above sequence with any measure in the music and repeat whole pattern till music ends.

Presented by Dick Crum