

# DEVOLLIÇE

(Albania)

The name of the dance refers to the Devolli region in southeastern Albania. The dance consists of a slow part in approximately 2/4 rhythm followed by a faster dance in 6/8 which may also be done at the end of other dances. Women may do this dance but it is primarily a man's dance and was done as such on most occasions when Stephen Kotansky had seen it. It was performed on stage at the 1971 Ohrid festival and in 1972 at weddings in the village of Krani.

MUSIC: Record: SELO, Vol. 1 (LP), *Albanian Songs and Dances*, Side A/3. Tape: Garlic Press, 001

RHYTHM: 2/4 & 6/8 meter. Approximately 2/4 with a lengthening of ct 2, especially on all even-numbered meas.

FORMATION: Line with leader at R end. Hands are joined and held fwd anywhere from waist to shoulder-level.

---

METER: 2/4 & 6/8

PATTERN

---

Meas Count

Introduction:

## PART I: BASIC PATTERN

- Dance begins by facing R of ctr and moving to the R (LOD). Meter is 2/4.
- |    |     |   |
|----|-----|---|
| 1  | all | Step R  |
| 2  | all | Step L  |
| 3  | all | Step R  |
| 4  | 1   | Turning to face center step L fwd toward ctr  |
|    | 2   | bend L knee as R is lifted behind L knee.   |
| 5  | 1,2 | Step R backward out of circle; hold.  |
| 6  | 1   | Facing L of center - step on ball of L ft behind R  |
|    | 2   | shift wt forward onto R - face ctr.   |
| 7  | 1,2 | Step L to L; hold.  |
| 8  | 1,2 | Step R beside or behind L; hold.  |
| 9  | 1,2 | Step L to L; hold.  |
| 10 | 1,2 | Step R beside L; hold.  |
| 11 | 1,2 | Still facing center - step L across R as both knees bend so that step is done in a slightly crouched pos (do not bend fwd); straighten knees. |
| 12 | 1,2 | Lift or touch R across L (ct 1); hold (ct 2).   |

STYLE NOTE: In measure 11 the dip may sometimes also be done in measures 7 and 9. Measures 1, 4, and 11 are often performed with a slight preparatory lift (çukçe) before stepping on the beat.

### VARIATIONS ON BASIC

**Step-close-step:** Anyone in the line may choose to replace one or more of measures 2-3 by doing a step-close-step in LOD, beginning with either foot.

**Turn:** The leader and perhaps the next two or three people in line may do a slow CW turn during measures 1-2. It can be performed with either the two single steps described, or the step-close-step of Variation A.

**Squats:** Performed only by the leader and those next to him. They may be performed while moving to and facing R on measures 1 2,3; while moving L and facing ctr on meas 7 and 9, or while moving R and facing ctr on meas 11. Except in meas 11, squats are generally performed with feet somewhat further apart than the knees and thighs.

### PART II: (6/8 meter counted: 1-2 3-4 5-6 Dancers counts 1 2 3)

- |   |     |  |
|---|-----|--|
| 1 | 1   | Facing ctr - step R to R   |
|   | 2   | step L fwd toward ctr - hands may be brought fwd slightly for emphasis   |
|   | 3   | flex L knee slightly as R lifts behind L calf.   |
| 2 | 1   | Step R backward (out of circle)  |
|   | 2,3 | bounce or hop twice on R while turning once to L (CCW), L arcs forward (low to floor, knee fairly straight) to end slightly sideward toward R, end with knee bent. |
| 3 | 1   | Facing L of ctr - step L backward in LOD   |
|   | 2   | step R backward on ball of ft (LOD) OR simply touch without wt   |
|   | 3   | shift wt fwd to L.   |

### **SQUAT OPTIONS:**

At this point begins an optional 4-measure squat sequence which may be omitted or performed any number of times in succession before finishing the dance phrase with measures 4-5. The most common sequence included two of these 4 measure squat sequences for a dance phrase of 13 measures.

**Squat No. 1:** Facing RLOD - step R fwd in RLOD (long step) and begin to turn R (CW) (ct 1); continue turning R (CW) - bounce or hop on R as L arcs fwd to end fwd of R (leg somewhat straight) - end facing R of ctr (option - this may also be done by stepping L-R in place (cts 2-3).

**Squat No. 2:** Turning body to face R of center, leap or step L across R (LOD) (ct 1); turning to face center, leap into squat on both feet (ct 2); rise on L with R leg extended diagonally forward in preparation for next step.

**Squat No. 3:** Step R, L, R (cts 1, 2, 3) make a complete CW turn in the area just to the R of that occupied while squatting. (First step is to R)

**Squat No. 4:** Facing center, leap or step onto L by or slightly backward of R (ct 1); facing center or slightly L of center, leap into squat on both feet (ct 2); facing center L of center, raise on L with free R leg extended forward (ct 3).

The dance phrase ends with measures 4 and 5 after any number of repeats of Squats 1-4.

Measure 4: Same as Squat No. 1 (cts 1-3). (Turn CW R forward, bounce 2X)

Measure 5: Moving forward in LOD, step L forward (ct 1); touch R near L (to side of or slightly forward of) without taking weight (ct 2); hold (ct 3).