

Nabrala

Međimurje, Croatia

Međimurje is located between the Drava and Mura rivers and the Hungarian border. There are relatively few facts concerning the dances from that area dating from the 19th century, whether by Croatian or Hungarian ethnomusicologists. During the Austro-Hungarian occupation of this area, people were prohibited from maintaining their customs and dances. For this reason, solo singing became the only outlet for preserving the culture. Following WW I, those songs were used as a foundation for the creation of many new national dances, rooted in the peasant dances of other bordering cultures, like csárdás. Dances are often accompanied by singing and orchestra comprised of cymbal, violin, clarinet and bass, and sometimes the tamburitza orchestra.

Željko first researched Međimurje region in 1971 and continues to this day.

TRANSLATION: The Girl Gathering (Strawberries)

PRONUNCIATION: NAH-brah-lah

CD: "Sviraj svirče drmeša" by Skitnice, track #3

FORMATION: Closed circle of M and W, facing ctr with hands joined in V-pos.

STYLE: Flat footed, both M and W have same heavy styling, except when doing the drmeš. Knees are always slightly bent. Both M and W dance with energy.

STEPS: Pas de basque (PDB):
Leap L slightly to L as R knee lifts fwd (ct 1); step on R in front of L (ct &); step L back to place as R knee lifts fwd (ct 2). Repeat with opp ftwk.
Note: Each step is flatfooted and done with a heavy accent (stamp).

METER: 2/4

PATTERN

Meas.

INTRODUCTION: 8 meas

A FIG. I: PDB & STEP-STAMPS

1-4 Facing ctr - PDB, L-R-L-R.

5 Facing slightly L of ctr - small step L to L (ct 1); stamp R beside L (ct 2).

6 Facing slightly R of ctr - repeat meas 5 with opp ftwk. (R, stamp L)

7-12 Repeat meas 1-6.

B FIG. II: DRMEŠ & TURN

- 1 Drmeš to L: Facing ctr - step L to L with bent knee (down) (ct 1); close R beside L and bounce 2 times with knee flexes (up-up) (ct &-2).
- 2 Repeat meas 1.
- 3-4 Drmeš to R: Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk.
- 5 Stamp L ^{fwd} in place (ct 1); touch R heel fwd - lean slightly bkwd (ct 2).
- 6 Straightening body - step R bkwd to place (ct 1); small step on L bkwd (ct &); step R beside L (ct 2).
- 7-8 Repeat meas 5-6.
- 9-10 Repeat Fig. I, meas 5-6, with opp ftwk. (L, stamp R; R, stamp L)
- 11-12 Step L,R,L - turning L (CCW) and moving slightly to L (cts 1-2, 1); stamp R beside L (ct 2).
HANDS: On meas 11, ct 1 - clap hands as the L hand moves upward and the R in a downward motion.
- 13-24 Repeat meas 1-12.

*** Repeat dance from beg. (4 times in all).

SONG:

*Nabrala je jagode petrovke, srce moje.
Nabrala je jagode petrovke, srce moje.*

*Nabrala je tri kitice cvetja, srce moje.
Kaj nabrala dragomu je dala, srce moje.*

*Na livadi zumbul cvetek zeleni,
Jagoda malena, jagodica črlena,
Pozdravi mi v Međimurju dragoga.*

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The girl picked beautiful strawberries and three bouquets of hyacinth flowers to give to her boyfriend.

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

Presented by Željko Jergan