

RÂČENICA NA HORO

Bulgaria

TRANSLATION : "Line-Râčenica"
AND
BACKGROUND

1. The word Râčenica is derived from the noun râka (sg), râce (pl), Bulgarian for hand, forearm. Many Râčenicas are accompanied by beautiful hand and arm movements.
2. In dance and music terminology the term Râčenica is used to indicate a dance in 7/8 meter (2-2-3) and it is also the name of its basic three-step.

The Râčenica is the most widespread dance in Bulgaria and therefore sometimes called "the Bulgarian national dance". It is performed in all kinds of formations and throughout the whole year. Some other Racenics however, are only done on special occasions, like the ones that are connected with wedding or seasonal festivities.

This Râčenica is done in an open circle or line and therefore gets the extension na Horo.

Different variations are done in the ethnographic regions of Trakija (Thrace) and Severnjaško (Northern Bulgaria). They are often performed to a song or an instrumental accompaniment.

A popular version of both ethnographic regions is presented in the following descriptions.

MUSIC : LP/Cassette "Folk Dances from Bulgaria" - volume 4
JL1988.02 by Jaap Leegwater
Side B, Band 4.

METER : 7/8  or 
Q Q S
1 2 3

FORMATION : Open or half circle.
Hands held at W-position.

INTRODUCTION : 4 measures

RÂČENICA NA HORO
(Severnjaški - variant)

This variant of Râčenica na Horo was learned from the Bulgarian choreographer and dancer-researcher Ivan Donkov in Veliko-Târnovo, Bulgaria in January 1988.

It is based on the variation done in the village of Gorno Lipnica, Pavlikeni district and is also known as Angelovata (Angel's dance). An interesting feature is that the dance pattern consists of 9 measures done to a musical accompaniment phrased in 8 measures.

<u>MEAS</u>	<u>PATTERN</u>	
1	facing ctr, arms in W-position step on L ft fwd (ct 1-2), bounce on L ft (ct 3)	
2	step on R ft bkwd (ct 1-2), bounce on R ft (ct 3)	
3	step on L ft bkwd (ct 1-2), bounce on L ft (ct 3)	
4	facing ctr, moving sdwd R, bounce on L ft, moving R ft to the side (ct 1), step on R ft (ct 2), step on L ft next to R ft, taking R ft off the floor (ct 3)	
5	repeat action of meas 4	
6	facing ctr, moving in LOD, step on R ft (ct 1) step on L ft (ct 2) step on R ft (ct 3) } Râčenica RLR	
7	Râčenica LRL	
8	turning face ctr, leap onto R ft sdwd R, swinging arms down (ct 1-2) step on L ft behind across R ft (ct 3)	
9	step on R ft fwd, swing arms fwd low (ct 1-2), bounce on R ft, taking L ft off the floor and swing arms further up to W-position (ct 3)	

Dancedescription and presentation by
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