

## **Mari Kiz – Mari Kız** (Gagauzia)

Mari Kiz (MAH-ree KUHZ) means Oh, Girl. This dance is from the Gagauzi culture and is danced to a Gagauzi love song. The Gagauzi people are from the same Oguz tribe as Turks living in Turkey now but, when migrating from the middle of Asia, the Gagauzi branch followed the north Black Sea path, and finally settled in the territories from Crimea to Bulgaria. Once there, most of them converted to Orthodox Christianity. Today the Gagauzi people speak a very clear Turkish dialect which is somewhere between Azerbaijani and Turkish dialects.

In 1994 the Gagauzi people were given an autonomous piece of land called Gagauzia. This independent country is located within the borders of Moldova. Just as their language has many influences, in their dance culture you can find influences from Turkish, Pontic, Bulgarian, Romanian and Moldovan dances and music. Caspar Bik learned this dance from Dominike Karantzounis, a Dutch specialist in Romanian dances. Caspar presented Mari Kiz at the 2018 Stockton Folk Dance Camp held at University of the Pacific, in Stockton, California.

Music and video: 3/4 Meter                      CD: *Balkan and Beyond*, Track 5

Video: *2018 Stockton Folk Dance Camp Video*. This video can be seen by contacting a camper who purchased it.

Formation:              Circle of dances, facing center, hands in V-position.

Steps & Styling:      Slow, with deep knee bends.

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Measures	3/4	PATTERN
16 meas		INTRODUCTION. No action.
	I.	<u>ALONG THE CIRCLE.</u>
1		Large step L across in front of R, bending knees (ct 1); step R to R (ct 2); step L next to R (ct &); step R to R (ct 3).
2		Large step L across behind R, bending knees (ct 1); step R to R (ct 2); step L next to R (ct &); step R to R (ct 3).
3		Repeat meas 1.
4		Large step L across behind R, bending knees (ct 1); sway R to R (ct 2); sway L in place (ct &); step R next to L (ct 3).
5-16		Repeat meas 1-4 three times.
	II.	<u>ANGLE TOWARD CENTER AND BACK.</u>
1		Step L diag R, moving 45 degrees twd ctr (ct 1); 3 steps (R, L, R), continuing at 45 degree angle (cts 2, &, 3).
2		Step L in front of R with bent knee (ct 1); step R back, in place (ct 2); step L to L, now facing 45 degrees to L of ctr (ct &); step R in front of L with bent knee (ct 3).
3		Continuing to face diagonally L, step L bkwd (ct 1); 3 steps (R, L, R) backing up (cts 2, &, 3).

Mari Kız — continued

- 4 Facing ctr, step L behind R (ct 1); large sway R to R (ct 2);  
sway L in place (ct &); step R next to L (ct 3).
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.

Sequence: As noted above 5 times, then Fig I one more time.

### Lyrics

#### Transliteration:

Su bag cotin altinda, Mari kız  
Gül üzümçük  
Üzüm mü toplayım, Mari kız  
Sana mi bakayım?

Sana baka, Mari kız, gözüm süzöldü

Versene o al basmani, Mari kız  
Gözümü sileyim,  
Gözümü sildilce sildikge, Mari kız  
Sana kem bakayım

Seni da bana vermesaydılar deli mi olayım?

Komratimin alcak yollarına  
Köprü mü olayım?  
Gelene gecene, Mari kız, seni mi sorayım?

Bildir (gecen sene) turnam biricikti  
Bu yıl yes oldu (esi oldu).  
Vardı tabir karakaşlı  
Kime yes oldun

\* Komrad is the capital city of the Gagauz Turks in today's Moldova.

\*\* Karakaşlı: "one with black eyebrows" usually refers to a pretty girl (or, rarely, to a handsome boy) with dark eyes and eyebrows. The last two paragraphs are quite abstract.

#### Translation:

Under the grape leaves, oh girl  
Fruited bunches of grapes  
Shall I pick up the grapes, oh girl  
Or shall I look at you?

Due to too much looking, oh girl, my eyes get tired.

Give me your red cotton scarf, oh girl  
Let me wipe my eyes.  
After wiping and wiping my eyes, oh girl  
Let me see you again

If they don't give me you, shall I go out of my mind?

Over the lower roads of my Komrad\*  
Shall I be a bridge?  
To all the passersby, oh girl, shall I ask of you?

Last year my crane bird was alone  
This year she found a mate.  
Gone with one with black eyebrows\*\*  
Whose mate are you now?

Caspar Bik dancing  
(though not Mari Kız) at  
Stockton Camp in 2018.

