Mari Mariiko
(Bulgaria)

Mari Mariiko (mah-EE mah-REE-ee-koh), meaning "Dear Maria," is a "Pravo Rodopisko Horo" adapted to the song "Mari Mariiko." It is from the Rhodope Mountain area in Southern Bulgaria. The vocal on this recording is by Nadezda Hvojneva, one of Bulgaria's most outstanding singers in the typical gliding Rhodope singing style. Mr. Jaap Leegwater learned this dance in Bulgaria and presented it at various workshops and camps.

RECORD: Folk Dances from Bulgaria, Vol II 69A 11134 Side 8/5. 2/4 meter
FORMATION: A closed or open circle of dancers, facing ctr, hands joined in "W" pos.
STEPS and STYLING: The dance is done in a calm, leisurely manner, almost solemnly.
When action is described for cts 1-2, it should take 2 cts to complete, i.e., do not complete it on ct 1 and hold on ct 2 - make it smooth and flowing.

MUSIC 2/4 meter PATTERN

Measures
8 meas INTRODUCTION No action.

1. VOCAL

1  Facing ctr and moving sdwd R, step on R ft (ct 1); step on L ft across in front of R (ct 2).
2  Repeat meas 1.
3  Step on R ft sdwd R (ct 1); lift L ft and start moving it out and around behind R (ct 2).
4  Step on L ft behind R (cts 1-2).
5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.
9  Step on R ft sdwd R (ct 1); step on L ft across in front of R (ct 2).
10-11 Repeat meas 3-4.
12-14 Repeat meas 9-11.
15  Step on R ft sdwd R, shifting full wt onto R ft but leaving L ft in place (cts 1-2).
16  Shift full wt onto L ft, leaving R ft in place (cts 1-2).
17-32 Repeat meas 1-16.

11. INSTRUMENTAL

1-2  Facing and moving diag R twd ctr, walk R,L,R,L (1 step to a ct).
3  Continuing to move diag R, dance a large step fwd on R ft, slightly bending both knees (ct 1); straighten knees and lift L ft beside R ankle (ct 2).
4  Repeat meas 3 with opp ftwk.
5-8  Facing diag L of ctr, repeat ftwk of meas 1-4 but moving diag bkwd R twd rim of circle.

DANCE SEQUENCE: Dance the pattern as written 3 times plus fig 1 once more.

[Lyrics to Mari Mariiko on following page]
Step bkw on L (ct 1); step on ball of R ft in front of L (ct 2); step bkw on L (ct 2).

Move fwd with a large step on R heel (ct 1); step on L beside R (ct 2); step fwd on R (ct 2).

5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 with opp ftwk.
9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.

III. LONG PATTERN; TWISTS

Facing ctr, step on R diag fwd R (ct 1); turning to face LOD, step on L slw twd ctr (ct 2).

Moving out on a R diag, step on R heel to R (ct 1); step on L beside R (ct 2).

Repeat meas 2.

Step R, L, R turning gradually to face ctr (cts 1, 6, 2).

5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 with opp ftwk and facings.

Facing ctr, step fwd R, L (cts 1, 2).

Fall fwd on R, raising L leg bkw from knee (ct 1); hop on R, kicking L fwd from knee (ct 2).

Step on L ft (ct 1); step on ball of R ft across in front of L (ct 2); step on L in place (ct 2). (Pas de basque).

Leap onto R (ct 1); slap L in front of R (ct 2).

Leap onto L, twisting to face LOD and bringing R ft behind L calf, R knee turned out (ct 1); twisting to face ctr, hop on L (ct 2).

Hop on L (ct 1); slap R in front of L (ct 2).

Step bkw on R (ct 1); step on L beside R (ct 6); step bkw on R (ct 2).

Repeat meas 15 with opp ftwk.

DANCE SEQUENCE: I, II, III, III; I, II, III, III.

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ERRATA

MARI MARIKO published February 1989. Description was written by Omega Andreola not Omega Graham.