

Myatalo Lenche

(Bulgaria—Severnyashka)

The song (MYAH-tah-loh LEHN-cheh) tells of young Lenche, who is determined to select her husband by throwing apples at random. The dance was learned from Belcho Stanev by Michael Ginsburg, who taught it at the 2006 Mendocino Folklore Camp and at the 2006 North-South Folk Dance Teachers' Symposium.

Music: Michael Ginsburg: CD CAMP 2006 - Band 4 (Ruchenitsa)

Rhythm: Meter: 7/8 = 1-2, 1-2, 1-2-3, counted here as: 1, 2, 3 (Q,Q,s or S,s)
and 7/8 = 1, 1-2-3, 1-2-3, counted here as: uh, 2, 3 (q,s,s)

Formation: Mixed line or open circle, hands down in V-pos, leader on R.

Styling: The dance is very lively, but movements are carefully controlled.

Measure	7/8 meter	PATTERN
---------	-----------	---------

8 meas INTRODUCTION. No action.

I. LOD & RLOD - SLAPS AND STAMPS (vocal in 3-meas phrases)

- 1 Facing and moving in LOD, step fwd on R (ct 1); step on L behind and to right of R (ct 2); step fwd on R (ct 3).
- 2 Lift on R with L ft fwd (ct uh); step fwd on L (ct 2); hop on L (ct 3).
- 3-6 Repeat meas 1-2 twice.
- 7 Repeat meas 1 while turning to face ctr.
- 8 Hop on R (ct 1); step on L in front (ct 2); step back on R (ct 3).
- 9 Jump onto both, ft flat and knees bent (cts 1-2); leap onto R, raising L leg fwd (ct 3).
- 10 With straight L leg extended, bend supporting R knee and slap flat L ft fwd, (cts 1-2); small leap onto L beside R (ct 3).
- 11 Continuing to face ctr and moving in RLOD, step on R across in front of L (cts 1-2); small leap onto L beside R (ct 3).
- 12 Step on R behind L (cts 1-2); small leap onto L beside R (ct 3).
- 13-18 Continuing to face ctr, repeat meas 7-12.
- 19-36 Repeat meas 1-18.

- II. IN, OUT and TURN (instrumental in 4-meas phrases)
- 1 Facing and moving twd ctr, step R, L, R (cts 1,2,3).
 - 2 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk.
 - 3 Facing R of ctr and moving back diag R, step on R (cts 1-2); step on L beside R (ct 3).
 - 4 Repeat meas 3.
 - 5 Pivoting to face ctr, raise R with knee bent (ct uh); kick R ft fwd and down across in front of L (ct 2); leap onto R beside L (ct 3).
 - 6 Stamp L beside R, no wt (cts 1-2); step on L beside R (ct 3).
 - 7 Repeat meas 6 with opp ftwk.
 - 8 Repeat meas 6.
 - 9 Hop on L (ct 1); keeping most wt above L ft, step on R in front of L (ct 2); step back on L in place (ct 3).
 - 10 Repeat meas 9.
 - 11 Lift on L with R fwd (ct uh); step fwd on R (ct 2); hop on R (ct 3).
 - 12 Repeat meas 11 with opp ftwk.
 - 13 Moving bkwd away from ctr, step R, L, R (cts 1-3).
 - 14 Continuing bkwd, repeat meas 13 with opp ftwk.
 - 15 Releasing hands, begin a solo turn CW by lifting on L with R fwd in LOD (ct uh); step on R in LOD (ct 2); hop on R, while turning to face RLOD and completing half the turn (ct 3).
 - 16 Raise L bkwd in LOD (ct uh); step bkwd on L (ct 2); hop on L while completing turn to end facing LOD before rejoining hands (ct 3).
- Dance as written repeats three times.

Song Lyrics (from notes by Rumens Shopov and MIT Folk Dance Club Songbook)

/Myatalo Lenche yabulka/
myatalo i narichalo:
/"Na komu padne yabulka/
za nego sha sa ozhenya."

Lence was throwing apples;
throwing and saying:
"The one an apple falls on
is the one I'll marry."

/Yabulka padna na starets./
Starets so mnogo [zaradva]
/zasuka mustak nagore/
[zagladi] brada na dole.

An apple fell on an old man.
The old man was very pleased;
he curled his mustache up
and his beard down.

/Viknalo e Lenche da plache:/
/"Olele, mighko, mighchitse,
kakvo shte pravya toz starets?"/

Lence burst out crying:
"Oh, Mama, Mama,
what'll I do with an old man?"

/Mighka na Lenche dumashe:/
"Ya, malchi, Lenche, ne plachi.
/Durvari v gora she idat/
i niye starets shte pratim.

Mama said to Lenche:
"Be quiet, Lenche, don't cry!
The woodcutters will go into the
hills, the old man with them.

/Durvari v gora she idat/
i niya starets shte pratim.
/Dano go durvo ubiye/
dano go mechki izhyadat

The woodcutters will go into the
hills, the old man with them.
Perhaps a tree will kill him,
Perhaps the bears will eat him."

/Durvari ot gora se vrushtat/
nashiyat starets nay-napred
/na ramo durvo noseshe/
mechka za ukho vodeshe!

The woodcutters are returning from
the hills, our old man in the lead -
carrying a tree on one shoulder,
and leading a bear by the ear!