

Opsa

(U.S. Serbian/Croatian)

Opsa (OHP-sah) is currently one of the most popular dances at Croatian and Serbian dance events in the major cities of the Upper Midwest and the Pennsylvania/Ohio area. Its melody is relatively recent, having been composed and recorded in former Yugoslavia about a decade ago. The origins of the dance *per se* are obscure - it seems to have arisen here in the U.S., possibly around Pittsburgh. On the other hand, its structure has the same 5-measure pattern as the old Serbian *Vranjanka*. I first saw and learned it at the Tamburitza Extravaganza weekend in Los Angeles, 1993, where tamburitza players and fans of tamburitza music from all over the U.S. had gathered, and *Opsa* was played and danced dozens of times.

Recordings: Jugoton Stereo CAY-814 (Nenad Jovanović), Side 2; 2/4 meter
has also been issued on cassette by two U.S. tamburitza orchestras, "Lole" and "Kapetani".

Formation: Open circle, men and women, hands joined and held at shoulder height to start.

Meas	ACTION
1	Facing very slightly R of center, step Rft in line of dance (1); step Lft, continuing in line of dance (2).
2	Continue, stepping Rft in line of dance, turning to face center (1); close Lft beside Rft, without taking weight on Lft (2).
3	Still facing center, step Lft slightly L (1); close Rft beside Lft, without taking weight on Rft (2).
4	Still facing center, step Rft slightly R (1); close Lft beside Rft, without taking weight on Lft (2).
5	Step Lft to L, turning to face slightly R of center (1); bring joined hands down and a little backwards as you step back on Rft (2); step Lft across, beginning to move in line of dance, at the same time raising joined hands to previous position (&).

Notes by Dick Crum 7/94

Opsa

1. \ Nek' se igra ovo kolo, ko ga ne bi vol'o? :\
- \ Kolo ide tako lako, da zaigra može svako. :\

Refrain:

Devojke se čuju, opsa, skoči!
Nedaju se momci, oće brže,
složnije i bolje, igranj do zore, opsa!

2. \ Nek' se igra ovo kolo, ko ga ne bi vol'o? :\
- \ Momci, cure, svi u kolo, nek' se vije naokolo. :\
3. \ Nek' se igra ovo kolo, ko ga ne bi vol'o? :\
- \ Zurle ječe, bubanj bije, vesele se meraklije. :\



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Translation

- 1. Let's dance this kolo -- everyone loves it. It moves so freely and easily, everyone can dance it.

Refrain:

You can hear the girls shouting: "Opsa!* Dance!" The boys won't be outdone -- they want to dance faster, more together and better -- dance till dawn, *opsa!*

2. Let's dance this kolo -- everyone loves it. Boys, girls, everybody join the kolo, wind it around.
3. Let's dance this kolo -- everyone loves it. The *zurlas*** are wailing, the drum is beating, and the dancers are on a high.

* *opsa!* - spontaneous exclamation often used while dancing (no exact English translation; something like 'whee!', 'yippee!' or 'hee-haw!')

** *zurla* (zoor'-lah) - shawm-like folk instrument common in southern Serbia, Macedonia and other southern Balkan countries. Usually played in pairs with accompaniment by a drum (*bubanj*, *tapan*, etc.)