

Rumelaj

Macedonia

Rumelaj (ROO-meh-ligh) is akin to the Čoček family of dances which includes Čupurlika and Sa Sa. It actually can be considered the Moslem (Gypsy, Turkish, Albanian) form of Provačo or Lesnoto. Steve Kotansky chose the song Rumelaj as the piece of music - which is sung by Hungarian gypsies - because it fits the mood and feel of the dance so well. It is done around the Skopje area, region of Calgii. Originally the dance was taught by Pece Atanasovski under the title JENI JOL (Turkish for "new road"). A slightly different version, under the name YENI YOL, was presented by Bora Ūzkök at the San Diego State Folk Dance Conference and at the University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp in 1979. Rumelji was presented by Steve Kotansky at the 1990 Idyllwild Folk Dance Camp.

CASSETTES: Garlic Press Productions, GPP 004, Side A/5; 2/4 meter
Zlatne Uste Balkan Brass Band, Rounder C6054, Side A/2.

RECORD: Olympic Records, LP-36156, Side A/5 (Jeni Jol).

FORMATION: An open circle, dancers facing slightly R of ctr with little fingers locked in W-pos. Leader at R end of line.

STYLING: Steps are small and there are soft knee flexes on almost every step. During the dance, the W may do small, subtle hip lifts or wt shifts with subtle hip movements. Shldr shimmies may be done at will. M may do shldr shimmies but NO hip lifts.

MEASURES	2/4 meter	PATTERN
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INTRODUCTION Start with the beginning of any musical phrase.

I. BASIC

- 1 Facing slightly R of ctr and moving in LOD (CCW), touch ball of R ft (ct 1); step on R ft in LOD (ct &); repeat cts 1,& with opp ftwk (cts 2,&).
- 2 Turning to face ctr, touch ball of R ft fwd twd ctr (NOT on a diag)(ct 1); step bkwd onto R ft (ct &); step L,R in place (cts 2,&).
- 3 Repeat meas 2 with opp ftwk, except on the last ct, step on L in front of R (DO NOT step across).

II. TURN VARIATION (Signaled by leader)

- 1 Using same ftwk as in meas 1 of Basic (Fig I), turn once CW moving in LOD. Release fingers on turn but keep arms in W-pos.
- 2-3 Repeat meas 2-3 of Basic (Fig I).
Note: Turn Variation is danced only occasionally and rarely more than twice in a row.

DANCE SEQUENCE: Dance Basic (Fig I) occasionally inserting the Turn Variation (Fig II).