

SILISTRENSKA TROPANKA

(Bulgaria)

This line dance (sih-LEES-trehn-skah TROH-pahn-kah) was collected by Yves Moreau on a research trip to Bulgaria in 1971. It is a type of dance involving arm movements which is widespread throughout Dobrudzha in Northeast Bulgaria. This particular version is popular in and around the town of Silistra, situated on the Danube River, the border between Bulgaria and Romania. This description reflects the dance as presented by Mr. Moreau at the 1977 University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp, Stockton, California.

MUSIC: Request SRLP 8142, S-1, B-5 "Dobrudjanska Tropanka". 2/4 meter.

FORMATION: Short lines, mixed or segregated. "W" pos: Hands joined with adjacent dancers, elbows bent and close to own sides, hands at shldr level. Face slightly R of ctr; wt on L ft.

STYLE: Knees bent, body in a somewhat squat pos with torso erect. A heavy, earthy feeling is characteristic of this Bulgarian dance; steps and stamps are taken firmly and with strength. Arm movements are strong and rhythmical. W dance as strongly as M.

MUSIC 2/4

PATTERN

Measures

Start at the beg of a musical phrase.

I. BASIC PATTERN - FOOTWORK

- 1 Step in LOD on R ft (ct 1); low, heavy scuffing stamp with L ft, no wt (ct 2).
- 2 Repeat action of meas 1 with opp ftwk.
- 3 Face ctr and step diag bkwd R on R (ct 1); step on L near R heel (ct 2).
- 4 Small step fwd on R (ct 1); light stamp with L beside R, no wt (ct 2).
- 5 Step on L in place (ct 1); sharp, heavy stamp with R beside L, no wt (ct 2).
- 6 Another sharp stamp with R beside L, no wt (ct 1); hold (ct 2).

BASIC PATTERN - ARM MOVEMENTS (simultaneous with ftwk)

Free hand of first and last dancers follows movements of joined hands.

- 1 Extend hands in an arc upward and fwd, straightening elbows as arms swing downward and a little bkwd (cts 1-2).
- 2 With elbows straight, arms swing bkwd as far as comfortable (ct 1); arms beg to swing fwd (ct 2).
- 3 Arms, elbows straight, swing up and fwd until they are parallel to floor (ct 1); arms swing downward and a little bkwd (ct 2).
- 4 Arms swing bkwd as far as comfortable (ct 1); arms beg to swing fwd to floor-parallel pos (ct 2).

SILISTRENSKA TROPANKA (continued)

- 5 Arms continue to swing up and retrace orig arc of meas 1 (ct 1); hands pull down strongly to "W" pos (ct 2).
- 6 Quickly raise hands again and pull down strongly to "W" pos (ct 1); hold (ct 2)., i.e., the two pulls into "W" pos occur with the two sharp stamps with R ft.

II. EXTENDED BASIC PATTERN - FOOTWORK

Begun and ended at the discretion of leader.

- 1-5 Repeat ftwk and arm movements of meas 1-5 (Fig I).
- 6 Large, heavy step bkwd and slightly to the R on R ft, R knee bent, L ft remains in place (ct 1); hold (ct 2). Wt is completely over R ft, torso remains erect, back straight.
- 7 Transfer wt fwd onto L ft (ct 1); stamp R ft beside L, no wt (ct 2).
- 8-9 Repeat action of meas 6-7 (Fig II).
- 10 Stamp R ft again, no wt (ct 1); hold (ct 2).

EXTENDED BASIC PATTERN - ARM MOVEMENTS

- 1-5 Repeat arm movements as in meas 1-5 (Fig I).
- 6 Extend hands in an arc upward and fwd, straightening elbows, until arms are parallel to floor (cts 1-2).
- 7 Arms retrace arc pattern twd "W" pos (ct 1); resume "W" pos with downward pull (ct 2).
- 8-9 Repeat action of meas 6-7 (Fig II).
- 10 Raise hands slightly and pull down strongly to "W" pos (ct 1); hold (ct 2).