

SLAVONSKI DRMES

[SLAVONIA]

The Croatian drmeses are probably the most lilting and melodious of all of the Yugoslav dances. The word "drmes" means "to shake," and the shaking is emphasized by the long skirts of the women and the wide "gace" (trousers) of the men. Those dances are native to Croatia and Slavonia, and their music is usually played on the tamburitza, an instrument related to the mandolin and the balalaika. The orchestra usually consists of 4 or 5 tamburitza musicians playing different sized instruments.

The choreography for this dance is by Anatol Joukowsky, formerly of Belgrade, who first presented the dance at the 1954 Kolo Festival, in San Francisco.

- MUSIC:** Record: Jugoton J-6001-A "Hrvatski Drmes" The music consists of 4 musical phrases —A, B, C, & D. Phrase A is in 6/8 meter.
The others are in 4/8 meter.
- FORMATION:** Double circle of cpls, M on outside facing W on inside (W back to ctr). Hands are on hips, palms out, except as noted. The body is kept erect, with most of the motion brought about by motion in the knees and ankles, the feet being kept close to the floor, except as noted.
- STEPS:** *Step-bend:* To 1 meas of music: beginning with ft indicated, step fwd (ct 1); make a sharp, slight dnwd bend of the knee of the same ft (ct 2); step fwd on other ft (ct 3); make another sharp, slight knee bend (ct 4).
Czardas-turn: To 1 meas of music: start with the ft opp to the direction of travel. To travel to L: begin with R crossing over in front of L to make 1 large step (ct 1); step L ft at R heel (ct 2); Repeat same action for cts 3 and 4. To travel to R, reverse the footwork. During this action keep knees pointed out.
Drmes: 2 Drmes steps to 1 meas. Begin R unless otherwise noted. Step R slightly fwd with knee slightly bent (ct 1), pull bwd on R by straightening R knee (ct &), step L in place (ct 2), step R in place (ct &). Repeat beginning L for cts 3 & 4 &.

| | MUSIC 6/8, 4/8 | PATTERN |
|---|-------------------|--|
| | Measures 6/8 | |
| A | 1 | I. MOVE TO RIGHT AND STAMP All step to R on R, bending R knee to give dip (ct 1), raise L off floor and swing twd R and do slight hop on R (as in Syrtos) (ct 2), step L across in front of R (ct 3), step R on R (ct 4), close L to R with stamp (ct 5), hold (ct 6). Repeat action of meas 1-2, beginning L and moving twd L. |
| | 2 | |
| | 3-4 | Repeat action of meas 1-2. On meas 4, cts 5 and 6 take pos facing ptr but with R shoulders opp, raise R arms upward and, with circular motion, place R hand on ptrs R upper arm. Arms should not be raised above face level, and should be extended. |
| | 4/8 | II. STEP-BEND TURNS |
| B | 5-7 | Beginning R, each ptr moving fwd, make 1 CW turn with 6 step-bends. |
| | 8 | Step R L R in place and hold, as ptrs change to L shoulders opp, L arms extended and L hands on ptrs upper L arm. On "hold" do a slight knee bend. |
| | 5-7 (repeated) | Repeat action of meas 5-7, beginning L and making 1 CCW turn |
| | 8 | With 3 steps (L R L) in place and a hold, turn to face ptr. Place hand on own hips. |
| A | 6/8 | III. MOVE TO LEFT AND STAMP |
| | 1-4 | Repeat action of Fig I, meas 1-4, beginning L and moving to L. At end of meas 4 take pos facing ptr with L shoulders opp, and place L on ptr upper arm. |
| | 4/8 | IV. STEP-BEND TURNS |
| B | 5-8 | Repeat action of Fig II, meas 5-8, beginning L and turning CCW. On meas 8 bring R shoulders opp and place R hand on ptrs upper arm. |
| | 5-8 (repeated) | Repeat action of Fig II, meas 5-7. On meas 8 step L R L in place and hold. On "hold" do a slight bend of the knees and place hand on own hips. |
| | 6/8 | V. MOVE TO RIGHT AND STAMP |
| A | 1-4 | Repeat action of Fig I, meas 1-4. End facing ptr, prepared to take shoulder-waist pos. |
| | 4/8 | VI. CZARDAS-TURNS AS COUPLES |
| B | 5-7 | On first ct, ptrs move twd each other and assume shoulder-waist pos. Begin R ft crossing in front of L and do 6 czardas-turn steps, turning CW as a cpl. During turn R shoulders are adjacent. |
| | 8 | With 3 small steps in place (R L R) and a hold, ptrs turn to bring L shoulders adjacent. Retain shoulder-waist pos and do <i>NOT</i> stamp. |

5-7 Repeat action of Fig VI, meas 5-7, starting L ft across and turning CCW as a cpl.

(repeated)

8

With 3 small steps in place (L R L) and a hold, M place ptr on his L, with W facing out, M facing in, in a single circle. M-W-M-W-M-W etc. W should be slightly ahead of M, and as soon as convenient place their hands on adjacent M inside shoulders.

VII. *DRMES STEPS AND LARGE CIRCLE*

9-12

All dance 16 drmes steps, moving circle slightly twd ctr on the first 4 steps so that all can comfortably take circle pos. M extend their arms fwd and join hands with next M on each side, forming a "V" of their arms behind W backs.

9-12

(repeated)

13-15

Retaining same pos, all do 6 czardas-turn steps RLOD (CW) in the big circle. Begin W crossing L, M crossing R.

16

Continue RLOD (CW) with 4 small running steps (M - RLRL, W - LRLR).

13-15

Continue RLOD (CW), all do 6 czardas-turn steps. Begin M-L, W-R.

(repeated)

16

With 3 accented steps (almost in place) and a hold, M and W move to face ptr and assume shoulder-waist pos.

VIII. *EXPAND AND CONTRACT LARGE CIRCLE*

9-12

All do 8 drmes steps away from ctr of circle. M move bwd, starting R; W move fwd, starting L.

9-12

With 8 drmes steps each cpl make 1 CW turn. Note: Retain shoulder-waist pos, and face ptr squarely throughout turn.

(repeated)

13-16

Repeat action of Fig VI, meas 5-8 and 5-8 repeated. Retain shoulder-waist pos, and end with M facing in, W facing out.

13-16

(repeated)

17-20

All dance 16 drmes steps twd ctr, beginning M R, W L.

17-20

Circles returns to same size as at beginning of Fig. VIII. On last 4 meas ptrs slide hands down to end hands joined, (not crossed), and arms extended.

(repeated)

IX. *PUSH-PULL AND WOMEN TURN*

21

All step R in place and raise L ft, at same time pushing away with R hand and

pulling with L. (cts 1-2). (See style note at end of fig.) All step L in place and raise R ft. At same time push away with L and pull with R hand. (cts 3-4).

22

M release his R hand and pull with his L to start W to make solo turn, while M stamps R-L-R in place, and holds. W make 1 solo turn L (CCW) with 3 steps (R L R) and hold. On "hold" ptrs rejoin hands.

23-24

Repeat action of meas 21-22, beginning L and W turning R.

21-24

Repeat action of meas 21-24. End fig M hands joined in M circle, W hands on own hips.

(repeated)

Note: During the "push-pull" part of this fig, the body is kept squarely facing ptr. Avoid swinging body and shoulders from side to side. The "push-pull" is achieved by a piston-like motion of the arms, with the extended arm straight out, and the retracted arm kept with the elbow close to the side. When raising the ft be sure to lift the knee straight twd ptr. Avoid turning the knee outward.

This fig should build to a climax, with a decided hop each time on the "foot-raise," and also on the "hold," during the last repeat of the sequence.

X. *CIRCLES ARCH AND DUCK THROUGH*

17-20

With 8 drmes steps, M hold their joined (or nearly joined) hands high and move their circle twd ctr.

17-20

With 8 drmes steps, W move fwd to duck under the M arches, passing L side of ptr. With 8 drmes steps, W raise hands high to form arches and move bwd twd ctr. At same time M release hands and with 8 drmes steps move bwd and duck under W arches. Ptrs pass L shoulder. After passing through arches, ptrs resume extended hand-to-hand pos.

(repeated)

16 meas

Repeat action of Fig IX and Fig X.

FINALE

21-24

Repeat action of Fig IX, meas 21-24. End in shoulder-waist pos

21-23

Cpl do 6 czardas-turn steps, starting R and turning CW. End M facing out.

(repeated)

24

M spin W CW out of the circle, releasing hands.