

## Štiri Snehe

(Međimurje, Croatia)

Štiri Snehe (sh-TEER-ee SNEH-heh) comes from the Međimurje Region, an area which includes the Drava River basin in Croatia. Željko Jergan has done research throughout Međimurje beginning in 1972. He presented this dance at the 2022 Stockton Folk Dance Winter Weekend via Zoom.

Situated on the northernmost edge of Croatia, Međimurje currently shares borders with both Slovenia and Hungary and is also very close to Austria. Međimurje, taken from the words “medi” (between” and “mor(j)e” (sea), means “between the water.” Its western border meets the foothills of the Alps while its eastern edge touches the Pannonian plains.

Over the centuries, the area has been ruled by various nation-states, such as the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The music, cuisine, and even the language of the area is rich with cultural influences from its neighbors, predominantly Hungary. While musical accompaniment at one time was by “cimbalom” and “gusle,” today the tamburitza orchestra and violin accompany dancing and singing.

Music 4/4 meter CD: *Lead the Dance – Povedi kolo*, Track #3

Video 2022 Stockton Folk Dance Winter Weekend downloads.

Formation: Closed mixed circle with pinkies or middle fingers joined, women’s hands on top of men’s, in W-position.

Steps & Styling Double Csárdás to L: Step L to L leaning slightly R from waist (ct 1); step R next to L (ct &); step L to L leaning slightly R from waist (ct 2); touch R next to L (ct &).

Double Csárdás to R: Double Csárdás to L with opp ftwk and direction.

Step-Hop: Step onto R (ct 1); hop on R while lifting L in front (ct 2). Can be done with opp ftwk and in any direction.

Two-Step: With knees bent slightly throughout, step R fwd (ct 1); step L next to R (ct &); step R fwd (ct 2). Can be done with opp ftwk.

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Meas	4/4 meter	PATTERN
5		<u>INTRODUCTION</u> . Instrumental. With wt on both feet, flex knees on each beat of the music. Begin dancing with the vocal.
	I.	<u>BACKING UP, ROTATING CW AND CCW</u> .
1		Facing ctr and moving away from ctr, beg L, three steps bkwd (cts 1, 2, 3); small hop on L, lifting R in front of L (ct.4).
2		Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk, continuing bkwd.
3		Heavy step L in place (ct 1); hold (ct 2); stamp R next to L (ct 3); hold (ct 4).
4		Repeat ftwk of meas 2 (R, L, R, hop), rotating 180° CW. As this meas begins, release joined hands and put hands on sides, fingers fwd, thumb back. Men’s hands are lower, on hipbones; women’s hands are higher, on waist.
5		Repeat ftwk of meas 1 (L, R, L, hop), rotating 180° CCW.
6		Heavy step R in place (ct 1); hold (ct 2); stamp L next to R (ct 3); hold (ct 4).

II. DOUBLE CSÁRDÁS.

- 1 Double Csárdás to L, moving diag L fwd.
- 2 Double Csárdás to R, moving diag R fwd.
- 3 In place, Step-Hop with L (cts 1, 2); Step-Hop with R (cts 3-4).
- 4 Beg L, three steps (L, R, L) while making a full turn L (CCW) to end facing ctr (cts 1, 2, 3); hop on L, kicking R fwd (ct 4).
- 5 Heavy step R in place (ct 1); hold (ct 2); stamp L next to R (ct 3); hold (ct 4).

III. TWO-STEPS TRAVELING CCW. Join hands in V-position.

- 1-4 Beg L, 8 Two-Steps facing and traveling CCW.
- 5 Stamp L twice (ct 1 and ct 3).

Sequence: Fig I-III three times; Fig I, Fig II.

Željko Jergan (in red shirt) with his dancers. *Screenshot.*



Lyrics

Štiri snehe so se spominale,  
Kak bi k večer skup jačmena krale.

Prva veli: Kak je jako roden!  
Druga veli: Hote, ja ga bodem!

Tretja plaftu doli je prestrla,  
Cielu stajcu noter je podrla.

Štrta veli: Najte mene mesti,  
Ja sem slaba ipak nebrem nesti.

Four women are plotting how to steal the barley tonight

The first one says, "The barley has been fruitful."  
The second one says, "Let's go. I'll do the harvesting."

The third one lays down the large cloth and places a bundle of barley on it.

The fourth one says, "Don't ask me to carry it, I am too weak for the job."