

Valle Jarnana (Albanian)

Valle Jarnana (VAHL-leh YAHR-nah-nah) belongs to the Pravo family of dances and is based on variations learned by Steve Kotansky from ethnic Albanians in former Yugoslavia, Germany, and the midwest U.S.A. He also received information from Janet Reineck. Valle is the Albanian word corresponding to the Serbian Kolo or Macedonian Oro. Shota is another popular name for this particular dance. It was presented by Steve Kotansky at the 1995 University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp.

Cassette: Kotansky Camp Tape - 1995, Side A/3. 2/4 meter

Formation: Open circle, hands joined in W-pos, facing ctr. Leader at R end.

Styling: Light and fluid with small soft steps.

Measures 2/4 meter PATTERN

INTRODUCTION Wait 8 or 16 measures, depending upon leader's choice.

I. BASIC (usually danced during vocal)

- 1 Facing ctr, step on R ft to R (ct 1); step on L ft crossing behind R ft (ct 2).
- 2 Step on R ft to R (ct 1); touch L ft beside R ft (ct 2).
- 3 Step fwd on L ft twd ctr (ct 1); touch R ft beside L ft (ct 2).

Note: Meas 2-3 may be danced as soft "Pas de Basque"-like steps (cts 1, &, 2). These steps are barely distinguishable from the step-touches and are compatible with them. On repeats of meas 1, step diag R bkwd on R ft (ct 1) to compensate for the fwd movement in meas 3.

II. VARIATION (usually danced during instrumental)

- 1 After completing Basic, still facing ctr, step slightly to R on ball of R ft (ct ah); step on flat L ft in front of R ft with slightly bent knees (ct 1); step slightly to R on ball of R ft (ah); step on flat L ft in front of R ft with slightly bent knees (ct 2). (Cts ah, 1, ah, 2 may be thought of as "ker-PLUNK, ker-PLUNK".)
- 2 Step to R on R ft (ct 1); step on ball of L ft behind R ft (ct &); step on R ft in place (ct 2).
- 3 Repeat meas 2 with opp ftwk. (Meas 2-3 are soft bkwd "Pas de Basque"-like steps.)

ARMS: Arm movements do not begin immediately, but are introduced into the dance by the leader when it "feels right". The forearms move to R and L in windshield wiper fashion.

- 1 Forearms move to R side (ct 1); forearms move to L side (ct 2).
- 2 Forearms move smoothly through ctr to R side (cts 1, 2).
- 3 Repeat meas 2 to opp dir.

SEQUENCE: Dance the Basic pattern during vocal sections and the Variation pattern during instrumental sections until the long clarinet solo begins. Dance the Variation until the solo ends. When the music returns to the melody (first instrumental, then vocal), return to the Basic pattern and dance the Basic until the vocal melody shifts to the chorus ("Jarnana..."). At that time shift to the Variation and dance it to the end of the music. Throughout the dance, the leader indicates the changes from the Basic to the Variation and back. These changes occur only after completing the previous pattern.

Valle Jarnana - Lyrics

Song (Tosk Albanian women's song, performed on Radio Tirane—transcribed and translated by Jane Sugarman)

// As më jep nj'er' ujë moj balluk' e prerë. // Won't you bring me some water, you with the cut bangs?
// Me se të të japë trendafil me ere? // With what shall I bring it, fragrant rose?

Refrain:

// Jarnana, jarnane jarnana moj të keqëne. // (... may I take all your misfortunes upon me!)

// O me dorën tënde moj balluk' e prerë. // Oh, with you hands, you with the cut bangs.
// Dora m'u ndodh zënë trendafil me ere. // But my hand is occupied, fragrant rose.

Refrain

// Me se t'u ndodh zënë moj balluk' e prerë? // With what is it occupied, you with the cut bangs?
// Me unazën tënde, trendafil me ere. // With the ring that you gave me, fragrant flower.

Refrain