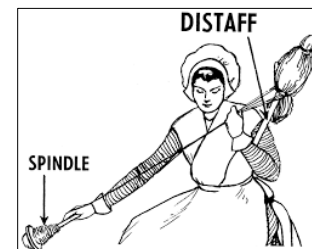


Valle Hajde Merre Furken

(Albania)

Valle Hajde Merre Furken (VAHL-eh HAI-deh MEH-reh FURH-kehn) is a dance created by Steve Kotansky by arranging traditional steps to fit this piece of music. The song “Dardha Rrumbullake” (Round Pear) is sung by the popular Albanian singer Eli Fara, who also sings Cobankat, Osman Taka, and Sonata. The lyrics “hajde merre furken” mean “Go fetch your distaff.” A distaff is a tool used in spinning. Because women would often gather for hours to spin and sew, this expression “go fetch your distaff” has come to mean “I’ve got some gossip to share!” This dance was presented by Steve Kotansky at Razzmatazz, Balkan Camp, and Kolo Festival in the summer and fall of 2011. Note: There are many variations in the spelling of the dance name: valle, vallje, vallja, etc.



Music: 7/8 meter The music is available for download by doing an internet search for “Dardha Rrumbullake Eli Fara”

Video: An internet search for the dance name will yield several results.

Formation: Open mixed circle, facing center, arms in W-pos.

Rhythm: 7/8 meter danced as S, Q, Q or 1-2-3

Meas	7/8 meter	PATTERN
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INTRODUCTION. See Notes below.

I. FIGURE I. Instrumental.

- 1 Facing ctr, step R to R (ct 1); brush/lift L up, around, and behind R (ct 2); step L behind R (ct 3).
- 2 Small step R to R with bent knee (ct 1); step L next to R (ct 2); step R in place (ct 3).
- 3 Step L fwd and slightly in front of R (ct 1); step R to R (ct 2); step L behind R (ct 3).

II. FIGURE II. Lyrics.

- 1 Facing R, step fwd R and bring L behind R heel/calf (ct 1); two small bounces on R in place or hold (ct 2-3).
- 2 Step L fwd reaching slightly (ct 1); small step R fwd (ct 2); small step L fwd (ct 3).
- 3 Turning ¼ to face ctr, step R to R (ct 1); brush/lift L up, around, and behind R (ct 2); step L behind R (ct 3).
- 4 Step R to R (ct 1); bounce/lift on R and bring L knee up in front of R knee (ct 2); hold (ct 3).
- 5 Step L fwd to ctr and bring R behind L heel/calf (ct 1); two small bounces on L in place or hold (ct 2-3).
- 6 Step R bkwd (ct 1); step L next to R (ct 2); step R in place (ct 3).
- 7 Step L to L (ct 1); bounce/lift on L bringing R foot up, around, and behind L (ct 2); step on R behind L (ct 3).
- 8 Step L to L (ct 1); bounce/lift on L and bring R knee up in front of L knee (ct 2); hold (ct 3).

Sequence: Part I is done five times. Part II done four times.

Notes: Because the dance has no introduction, it is easiest to wait the first meas and start on meas 2. Also, Part II, meas 1-4 and meas 5-8 are essentially the same steps with opposite footwork. and different directions: (1) Step and hold; (2) three steps; (3) step and brush/lift behind; (4) step-lift and hold.