

Vallja E Gajdës

(Albania)

Vallja E Gajdës (VAHL-yah eh GIGH-duhs) translates as “The bagpipe dance.” This dance, also called simply Gajde/Gajda, refers to the lead instrument or band imitating the sound of the gajda. It was taught by Steve Kotansky at the 2016 Stockton Folk Dance Camp. Steve learned the dance from Bardhi Pojani, a dance teacher and choreographer living in Korçë, Albania, who said it was a modern version popular at weddings.

- Music: 2/4 meter *SK&SK SFDC 2016, Tracks 1-3*
- Formation: Open circle of dancers with arms in W-pos to start, changing to V-pos if music speeds up (which it does in Track 3).
- Video: *2016 Stockton Folk Dance Camp DVD*, in which Steve uses Track 1.
- Steps and Styling: Small, bouncy steps and bouncy arms.

Measures	2/4 meter	PATTERN
		INTRODUCTION. No action. For Track 1, wait until melody begins after synthesizer improvisation; for Track 2, wait for 4 meas after saxophone improv and begin with melody; for Track 3, wait for 12 meas after improv and begin with melody.
1		Facing R of ctr and moving diag R in LOD, step R fwd (ct 1); step L fwd (ct &); step R fwd (ct 2); touch L next to R (ct &).
2		Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk. <u>Note</u> : The diagonal movement in meas 1-2 should compensate for the bkwd movement in meas 3-4.
3		Turning to face ctr, step R bkwd and twist L heel slightly in (“twizzle”) (ct 1); step L bkwd and twist R heel slightly in (“twizzle”) (ct &); repeat cts 1, & (cts 2, &).
4		Step R bkwd and slightly to R (ct 1); bounce on R and kick L across and in front of R (ct &); repeat cts 1, & with opp ftwk and direction (cts 2, &).



Steve Kotansky leading the line at Stockton Folk Dance Camp 2016, followed by Susan Kotansky, Marija Hillis, John Burke, and Caroline Lanker. *Photo by E. Khuner*