

Vallja e Nuseve të Sllovës

(Albania, Sllova)

Vallja e Nuseve të Sllovës (VAH-lyah eh NOO-seh-veh tuh SLOH-vus, “dance of the Sllova brides”) is from the village of Sllova, near the city of Dibra in the Gheg region of northeast Albania. Traditionally, this dance is only danced at weddings, and only by women who have been married within the last year. These women go to a wedding party, enter the hall with the guests, dancing on the way in, perform the dance and leave the hall in the same way. They are not guests at the wedding and won’t stay. The back is slightly bent as the dancers move in through the doorway, in order to show respect to the host. The figures in the dance symbolize the showing of the presents and gold or silver headdresses that these women received on their own weddings. This is a custom found only in the northern districts of Albania among the Gheg population. The Ghegs are one of the two major ethnic subgroups in Albania, and live predominantly in northern Albania. Genci Kastrati presented the dance at the 2015 Stockton Folk Dance Camp, at University of the Pacific.

Music: 4/4 meter CD: *Albanian Folk Dances*, Track 9
Video: 2015 Stockton Folk Dance Camp, DVD. Stockton Folk Dance Camp videos can be viewed in the library at UOP, or by contacting a camp participant who purchased them.

Formation: Open circle of dancers with hands in V-pos, holding a scarf in each hand, leader on the right. Scarves are held from the center, in the manner customary in northern Albania.

Steps and Styling: Very feminine, with a strong rhythmical bounce throughout.

Measures	4/4 meter	PATTERN
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1 drum beat INTRODUCTION No action.

- 1 I. TRAVEL STEP (Enter/exit wedding; body is bent forward slightly)
Facing and moving diag R, twist upper body to R and bounce while touching heel of R to R (ct 1); step on R while bouncing (ct &); step L fwd (ct 2); step R fwd (ct &); twist upper body to L and repeat cts 1, &, 2, & with opp ftwk and dir (cts 3, &, 4, &). The leader sweeps the scarf in her free (R) hand to the R and to the L in a figure-8 pattern, in synchrony with the twisting of the body on cts 1 and 3.
- 2-4 Repeat meas 1 three more times.

II. SHOW THE GIFTS; SHOW THE GOLD

- 1 "Show the gifts" – Standing upright, hands in W-pos, and turning body 180° R to face out of the circle, step R (ct 1); step L to L (ct 2); step R across L, flicking arms down (ct &); flicking arms up to W-pos, repeat cts 1,2,& with opp ftwk and dir (cts 3,4,&).
- 2 "Show the gold" -- Facing ctr with bent knees and L hand on L hip, bring R hand to forehead and touch R in front of L (ct 1); straightening knees, touch R to R with R arm extended high to R (ct 2); repeat cts 1-2 (cts 3-4).
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2.

III. INTO CTR AND OUT (Move closer to show the gold)

- 1 Without handhold, raise hands high and bend body to the R, taking two steps (R, L) twd ctr and turning 90° CW to end with L shldr to ctr and hands on hips (cts 1,2); continuing to turn CW, leap onto R to end facing ctr with bent knees, kicking up L leg behind body and to L (ct 3); close L next to R, straightening knees (ct 4).
- 2 Repeat Fig II, meas 2 ("Show the gold").
- 3 Facing ctr and moving R, step R (ct 1); leap onto L next to R, extending R to the side (ct &, this is a leap-displace movement); repeat cts 1, & twice (cts 2, &, 3, &); step R (ct 4). R hand is held down to side and makes a small CCW circular movement on each step-leap. L hand remains on L hip.
- 4 Moving away from ctr, lift on R on the & ct of the previous meas, twisting body to the L and bringing L leg up next to R calf (ct &); step back on L, moving R hand to L to trace the first half of a figure-8 (ct 1); lift on L, twisting body to the R and bringing R leg up next to L calf (ct &); step R bkwd, moving R hand to R to trace the second half of a figure-8 (ct 2); lift on R, twisting body to the L and bringing L leg up next to L calf (ct &); step L bkwd, moving R hand to L to trace the first half of a figure-8 (ct 3); lift on L, facing ctr and bringing R leg up next to L calf (ct &); step R in place, moving R hand down to R side (ct 4).
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.

Sequence: Fig I (enter wedding), Fig II, Fig III;
Fig I, Fig II, Fig III;
Fig I (exit wedding). End facing ctr, ft together.

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And what do you think of the new website design???

