

# Pembe

(Macedonia)

This version of Pembe (PEM-beh), popular in and around Titov Veles in the Vardar River Basin, was presented by Stephen Kotansky, under the title of Pembe II, at the 1988 University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp. He also presented a two measure dance from South Serbia with the same name. Pembe belongs to a family of dances sometimes referred to as the Beranče or "crossing family." They are done in southern and southwestern Macedonia and are also found in northern Greece and southern Albania. Although the basic dance pattern is frequently the same, the style varies depending on the music, the region in which it is found, and the individual dancer. Other dances using this basic pattern include Zensko Krsteno, Što me je Milo, Deverovo, Katusche Mome and Postupano.

Pembe has been taught by others in California. Atanas Kolarovski taught a version using the same basic pattern, and Kete Ilievski taught all of the variations described below at the 1988 Mendocino Folklore Camp. Kete taught Figure II as a womens' variation. In Macedonia, when men do their variations, the women continue with the Basic step or with Figure II. When Atanas does this dance, the step onto the left foot in measures 2 and 3 of the Basic step becomes a leap onto the full foot.

RECORD: Festival Records FR-4014A; RTB-029 Side A/6;  
RTB Despotović #4 Side B/3 2/4 meter

FORMATION: Open circle with leader at R end. "W" pos when done in mixed or W line, "T" pos when done in M line. The traveling parts of the dance are done in LOD. The leader makes an appropriate call or signal to change the pattern

STEPS: Hook: Bring heel of R ft across in front of the L leg about shin level.

STYLING: Pembe is done in a strong and dignified manner. There is an easy plié or bend of knees on each step.

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MUSIC 2/4 meter

Measures

INTRODUCTION None. Beg with any phrase.

I. BASIC

- 1 Facing R of ctr, step on L ft across and in front of R (ct 1); step fwd in LOD on R ft (ct 2).
- 2-3 Repeat meas 1 twice.
- 4 Turn to face ctr during this meas. Step slightly twd ctr on L ft (ct 1); step bkwd on R ft (ct 2).
- 5 Raise and lower R heel, raising L knee (ct 1); step on L ft to L (ct 2).
- 6 Step on R ft in front of L (ct 1); step bkwd on L ft (ct 2).
- 7-8 Repeat meas 5-6 with opp ftwk.
- 9-10 Repeat meas 5-6.

NOTE: To repeat Basic step, beg with raise and lower of L heel while turning to face R of ctr (ct 1).

## II. VARIATION

- 1-4 Repeat Fig I, meas 1-4, but beg by raising and lowering L heel while turning to face R of ctr (ct 1).
- 5 Raise and lower R heel while raising L knee (ct 1); step on L ft to L (ct 2).
- 6 Touch whole R ft fwd, rotating R heel to L (ct 1); hold (ct 2).
- 7-8 Repeat meas 5-6 with opp ftwk.
- 9-10 Repeat meas 5-6.

## III. MEN'S VARIATION I

- 1 Facing R of ctr, hop on L ft while raising R knee high (ct 1); step fwd in LOD on R ft (ct 2).
- 2 Still moving fwd in LOD, repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk.
- 3 Repeat meas 1 while turning to face ctr.
- 4 Raise and lower R heel while raising L knee (ct 1); bend R knee (ct 2).
- 5 Raise and lower R heel (ct 1); step on L ft to L (ct 2).
- 6-7 Repeat meas 4-5 with opp ftwk.
- 8-9 Repeat meas 4-5.
- 10 Repeat meas 6. Beg turning to face R of ctr during bend of L knee (ct 2).

## IV. MEN'S VARIATION II

- 1 Facing ctr, hop on L ft hooking R ft in front of L (ct 1); step on R ft to R (ct 2); step on L ft across in front of R (ct 2).
- 2 Repeat meas 1.
- 3 Hop on L ft hooking R ft in front of L (ct 1); leap onto R ft to R while sharply raising L knee high in front (ct 2).
- 4 Hold (ct 1); bend R knee (ct 2).
- 5-10 Repeat Fig III (M Variation I) meas 5-10.

DANCE SEQUENCE: Repetitions and order of Figures are determined by the leader.