

Ratka

(Macedonia)

Ratka (RAHT-kah) is a traditional Macedonian folk song. Vlasto Petkovski arranged the following dance to this music and presented it at the 2018 Stockton Folk Dance Camp at University of the Pacific. Slobodan Slović presented a different dance with the same name in the 1991 Stockton Folk Dance Camp.

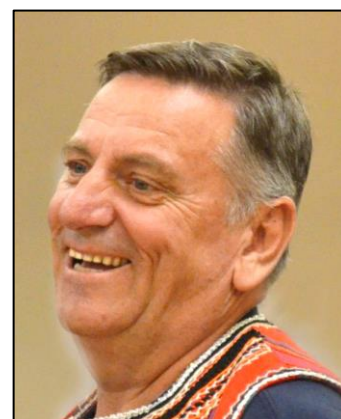
Music: 9/8 meter (1-2, 1-2, 1-2, 1-2-3) CD: Stockton 2018, Vlasto Petkovski, Track #13
counted as 1-2-3-4.

Video: 2018 SFDC DVD or download. To view this video, contact a camper who purchased it.

Formation: Open circle, hands in V-pos, facing R (CCW).

Steps & Styling: Čukče (CHOOK-cheh): Similar to a low hop, except the ball of the ft does not leave the floor.

Meas	9/8	PATTERN
8 meas	<u>INTRODUCTION.</u> No action. Start with the singing.	
	I. FIGURE I. SINGING.	
1	Facing and moving CCW, beg R, four steps fwd, with a small čukče on the fourth step (cts 1, 2, 3, 4).	
2	Continue fwd three steps (R, L, R) and touch L next to R (cts 1, 2, 3, 4).	
3-4	Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk, continuing in the same direction.	
5-8	Repeat meas 1-4.	
	II. FIGURE II. INSTRUMENTAL.	
1	Facing and moving CCW, small circular sweep of R to R and step R (cts 1, 2); small circular sweep of L to L and step L (cts 3, 4).	
2	Beg R, three steps fwd (cts 1, 2, 3); touch L next to R while turning to face ctr (ct 4).	
3	Beg L, moving twd ctr, three steps fwd (cts 1, 2, 3); touch R next to L (ct 4). During this meas, gradually bring hands up to W-pos.	
4	Beg R, three steps moving bkwd (cts 1-3); touch L next to R (ct 4). During this meas, gradually bring hands down to V-pos.	
5-6	Facing and moving L (CW), repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk.	
7-8	Repeat meas 3-4 with opp ftwk	
	III. FIGURE III. VARIATION ON FIGURE I.	
1	Facing and moving R (CCW), three steps fwd, beg R (cts 1-3); two small steps in place (L, R) (ct 4).	
2	Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk.	
3-4	Repeat meas 1-2, end facing ctr.	
5	Beg R, moving twd ctr, three steps fwd (cts 1-3); two small steps in place (L, R) (ct 4). During this meas, gradually bring hands up to W-pos.	



Vlasto Petkovski. Photo by M. Giusto.

Ratka — continued

6 Beg L, four steps bkwd (cts 1, 2, 3, 4) while gradually bringing arms down to V-pos.

IV. ENDING.

Replace Figure III, meas 6: two steps bkwd (L, R) (cts 1, 2); close L next to R (cts 3-4).

Sequence: Dance is done twice as noted above, except use Ending instead of Fig III, meas 6, the second time.

Lyrics

Остана Ратка млада удовица
на седумнаесет години.

Ostana Ratka mlada udovica
na sedumnaeset godini.

Ratka, a young widow, at seventeen.

Бело лице Ратка забулила
и за прво либе жалила.

Belo lice Ratka zabilila
i za prvo libe zhalila.

White-faced Ratka cried and for her
first love lamented.

Мајка на Ратка тихо ѝ говори:
“Не ми плачи Ратке, не жали.

Majka na Ratka tiho ѝ govori:
“Ne mi plachi Ratke, ne zhali.

Ratka’s mother speaks softly to her:
“Do not cry Ratka, do not regret it.

“Ти си ќерко, млада и убава,
друго либе ќе си заљубиш.”

“Ti si kjerko, mlada i ubava,
drugo libe kje si zaljubish.”

“You are a daughter, young and
beautiful, you will fall in love with
another person.”

Ратка на мајка плаче и говори:
“Не ми збори, мајко, не ме гори.”

Ratka na majka plache i govori:
“Ne mi zbori, majko, ne me gori.”

Ratka to her mother cries and speaks:
“Do not talk to me, Mother, it does
not burn me.

Како мојто либе нигде нема,
ни во турско мајко, ни каурско.
Ни во турско, ни каурско,
ни во цела Македонија.

Kako mojto libe nigde nema,
ni vo tursko majko, ni kaurisko.
Ni vo tursko, ni kaurisko,
ni vo cela Makedonija.

“As my love is nowhere, neither in
Turkey, Mother, nor in the Caucasus.
Neither in Turkey, nor in the
Caucasus, nor in all of Macedonia.”