

Razložko Horo

(Bulgaria)

Razložko Horo (rah-SLOSH-koh hoh-ROH) comes from the region of Razlog, a small town at the foot of the Pirin mountains. It was traditionally danced by men to the accompaniment of the "zurna", a musical instrument related to the oboe, played by Turks and Gypsies. The dance consists of three individual dances: a slow pattern in 11/8 meter, a medium fast pattern in 4/4, and a faster pattern in 11/16. The structure of the dance is somewhat related to the basic "krsteno" (crossing) family of dances found throughout Macedonia. Yves Moreau learned this dance from the late "Baj" Toma Karaivanov in Petrič, Bulgaria, in 1969, and presented it at the 1989 University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp.

CASSETTE: Bulgarian Folk Dances taught by Yves Moreau, YM-UOP-89 Side B/2.
11/8, 4/4, 11/16 meter

RHYTHM: Pattern I: 11/8 (1-2-3, 1-2-3, 1-2, 1-2-3 or SSQS, counted here as 1,2,3,4)
Pattern II: 4/4 (counted here as 1,2,3,4)
Pattern III: 11/16 (1-2-3, 1-2, 1-2, 1-2, 1-2, or SQQQQ, counted here
as 1,2,3,4,5)

FORMATION: Open circle or line, hands joined in "W" pos, shldr level, in patterns 1 and 2, and in "V" pos in pattern 3. Face ctr, wt on L ft.

STEPS: Čukče: Lift heel of ft with wt on the upbeat and lower it on the downbeat.

STYLING: Posture is erect. Movements are large in slow and medium tempo parts, and in proud Macedonian style throughout the dance.

MUSIC	11/8, 4/4, 11/16 meter	PATTERN
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Measures

INTRODUCTION There is a musical introduction with zurna and tapan in free meter. The action of the dance starts one measure after the melody of the slow pattern begins.

11/8 I. SLOW PATTERN

- 1 No action.
- 2 Facing ctr, čukče on L ft: On the čukče upbeat raise the R ft across in front of L calf, and on the čukče downbeat simultaneously push and extend R leg fwd and down, and then smoothly bring it diag R (ct 1); čukče on L ft, simultaneously bringing R leg behind L knee (ct 2); step on R ft behind L (ct 3); step on L ft in place, raising R ft up behind L calf (ct 4).
- 3 Čukče on L ft, simultaneously pushing and extending R leg down to R (ct 1); turning to face slightly R of ctr, step on R ft in LOD (ct 2); step on L ft in front of R (ct 3); step on R ft in LOD (ct 4).

- 4 Leap onto L ft in front of R (ct 1); facing ctr, step on R ft to R (ct 2); step on L ft in front of R, simultaneously picking up R ft behind L calf (ct 3); step on R ft in place (ct 4).
- 5 Repeat meas 2 with opp ftwk.
- 6 Transfer wt sharply onto L ft behind R, simultaneously extending R leg fwd and then diag R (ct 1); čukče on L ft, simultaneously bringing R leg behind L knee (ct 2); step on R ft behind L (ct 3); step on L ft in place, raising R ft up behind L calf (ct 4).
- 7-11 Repeat meas 2-6.

4/4 II. MEDIUM PATTERN

- 1 Turning to face L of ctr, step on R ft crossing in front of L with marked knee flexion, while upper body bends fwd and hands swing fwd and down and L ft comes up behind R calf (ct 1); facing ctr, step on L ft in place while returning hands to "W" pos (ct 2); dance small hop on L ft while turning to face R of ctr, extending R leg fwd (ct 3); step on R ft in LOD (ct 4).
- 2 Facing and moving LOD, hop on R ft extending L leg fwd (ct 1); step on L ft (ct 2); hop on L ft extending R leg fwd (ct 3); step on R ft (ct 4).
- 3 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 4 Repeat meas 1
- 5 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 6-9 Repeat meas 1-4.
- 10 Turning to face R of ctr, step on L ft crossing in front of R with marked knee flexion, while upper body bends fwd and hands swing fwd and down and R ft comes up behind L calf (ct 1); facing ctr, step on R ft in place while returning hands to "W" pos (ct 2); dance small hop on R ft while turning to face ctr (ct 3); close L ft sharply to R ft, taking wt on L (ct 4).

11/16 III. FAST PATTERN

- 1 Facing ctr, with hands coming down to sides ("V" pos), touch ball of R ft in front of L (ct 1); point R ft to R and slightly fwd (ct 2); pause (ct 3); step on R ft behind L while turning to face LOD (ct 4); step on L ft in place (ct 5).
- 2 Facing and moving LOD, step on R (ct 1); step on L (ct 2); pause (ct 3); dance small leap onto R ft to R (ct 4); step on L (ct 5).
- 3 Step LOD on R ft beginning to turn CCW to face RLOD (ct 1); facing RLOD hop on R ft, picking L ft up behind (ct 2); step on L ft behind R (ct 3); step on R ft behind L (ct 4); step fwd on L ft (ct 5).
- 4 Still facing RLOD, dance large step fwd on R ft (ct 1); step fwd on L (ct 2); pause (ct 3); leap fwd onto R (ct 4); step on L while turning to face ctr (ct 5).
- 5-20 Repeat meas 1-4 four times (5 times in all).

11/16 IV. OPTIONAL FAST PATTERN VARIATION

- 1 Turning to face L of ctr, dance small sharp leap onto R ft crossing in front of L, picking up L ft behind R calf, while upper body leans slightly fwd (ct 1); facing ctr, step on L ft in place, straightening body (ct 2); dance small lift on L ft while bringing R leg to R (ct 3); step on R ft behind L while turning to face LOD (ct 4); step on L ft in place (ct 5).
- 2 Facing LOD, dance quick hop on L ft (ct ah); step fwd on R ft bending both knees (ct 1); step fwd on L (ct 2); pause (ct 3); leap fwd onto R ft (ct 4); step fwd on L (ct 5).
- 3-4 Repeat Fig III, meas 3-4.
- 5-12 Repeat meas 1-4 twice (3 times in all).
- 13 Repeat meas 1 (ct 1).

NOTE: Fig IV is usually called by leader after doing Fig III several times. Since the tempo of the music accelerates after five times through Fig III, it is a logical time to dance Fig IV. However, since Fig IV is optional, it may be omitted, and Fig III may be danced to the end of the music.