

# Shira Horo

(Bulgaria)

Shira Horo (SHE-rah ho-ROH) means “Wide Round Dance.” This is not a choreography. It originated in the town of Vidin and nearby villages in northwest Bulgaria. The dances in that ethnographic region symbolize enjoyment and celebration, a detachment from the daily worry and hard field work. They feature fast, light, and bouncy footwork and generally upbeat, carefree dance movements.

This dance was presented by Anna Angelova at the Kolo Festival in San Francisco in November 2023.

Music: 2/4 meter For the music, contact Anna at [anniangelova@gmail.com](mailto:anniangelova@gmail.com).

Video: There are videos on YouTube; search for “Shira Horo.”

Formation: Open circle of dancers facing center, hands joined in V-pos, facing center.

Steps & Styling: All footwork is light, bouncy, and energetic. Arms swing in V-pos backward and forward during Fig I but remain stationary in V-pos during Fig II.

The recording used by Anna speeds up, so footwork will need to be smaller as the speed increases.

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Meas	2/4 meter	PATTERN
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8 INTRODUCTION. No action. Wait for kaval to begin.

I. SLIDE AND CROSS.

1 Facing ctr, wide step R to R (ct 1); step L next to R, displacing and lifting R (ct 2). Arms swing back. This energetic sideways movement is almost a chassé.

2 Repeat meas 1. Arms swing fwd.

3 Step R to R (ct 1); hold (ct 2). Arms swing back.

4 Step L strongly and with emphasis in front of R (ct 1); hold (ct 2). Arms swing fwd.

5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.

II. STEP-LIFTS, CROSSING RIGHT AND LEFT.

1-2 Step R to R (ct 1); hold (ct 2); hop on R while lifting L in front with bent knee (ct 1); hold (ct 2).

3-4 Step L to L (ct 1); hold (ct 2); hop on L while lifting R bent and hooked in front of L knee (ct 1); hold (ct 2).

5 Step R to R (ct 1); step L in front of R (ct 2).

6 Step R back in place (ct 1); step L to L (ct 2).

7 Step R in front of L (ct 1); step L back in place.

8 Stamp R next to L (ct 1); hold (ct 2).

Sequence: Repeat dance as noted above until the end of the music.

Anna Angelova taught a variety of Bulgarian dances at Kolo Festival in November 2023. *Photo by L. Tucker.*

