

Čoček za merak

(Southern-Macedonia – Gipsy community of Bitola and Prilep)

“Čoček” is the generic name for the dances from the Gipsy communities in Macedonia. I learned this particular one in Bitola in the 1980s. It occurred also in my repertoire as "Romsko Bitolsko oro," until I found this stunning music from the band "Mladi Talenti" (=Young Talents).

"*Merak*" is great love or passion; so this is the impassioned Čoček.

Pronunciation: TSCHOH-tschehk zah MEH-rahk

CD: PAMUK CD 1104/06

Rhythm: Even (4/4)

Formation: Mixed open circle, hands in a low and relaxed W-pos.
Wt on L, face ctr.

Styling: Dance relaxedly with syncopic knee-movements. The shoulders and hips make additional movements.

Meas

Pattern

8 meas

INTRODUCTION

BASIC STEP IN PLACE (CROSSING STEPS)

- 1 Step on R to R (ct 1); step on L in front of R (ct 2); step on R back in place (ct 3); step on L to L (ct 4); step on R next to L (ct &).
- 2 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk.
- 3 Repeat meas 1.
- 4 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk.

TRAVEL STEP

- 5 Facing and moving in LOD, step on R (ct 1); touch L next to R (ct 2); step on L across in front of R (ct 3); step on R in LOD (ct 4); step on L in place and turn CCW to face ctr (ct &).

Remark 1: A a syncopic bending of the knees on each "&"-count!

Remark 2: The steps in place of meas 1-4 are called "crossing steps," but actually you do not cross over, just step in front of the other ft!

Remark 3: In the beginning of the dance you can dance measures 1-4 (crossing steps in place) more than once, until you see that everybody "has" the step. I saw that frequently done on feasts in the "romski" communities.

Remark 4: Add a turn R during the travel step after a signal of the first dancer.

Description by Paul Mulders

Presented by Paul Mulders