

DEVOLLIÇE (De-vo-lee'-cheh)

The name of the dance refers to the Devolli region in southeastern Albania. The dance consists of a slow part in approximately 2/4 rhythm followed by a faster dance in 6/8 which may also be done at the end of other dances. Women may do this dance, but it is primarily a man's dance and was done as such on most occasions when I have seen it. (It was performed on stage at the 1971 Ohrid festival and in 1972 at weddings in the village of Krani.)

Record: LP: SELO, Vol. 2 Albanian Songs & Dances, Side A, Band 3
Part I

Rhythm: approximately 2/4 with a lengthening of ct. 2 especially on all even-numbered measures: The drumming pattern is generally:

Formation: an open circle with the leader on the right. Hands are joined and held forward and anywhere from waist to shoulder height.

Basic Pattern

meas. ct.

The dance begins by facing to the right of center and moving about the circle to the right. (LOD)

1. 1. Step fwd. on R. (LOD)
2. 1. Step fwd. on L. (LOD)
3. 1. Step fwd. on R. (LOD)
4. 1. Turn to face the center and step fwd. on L (directly into center.)
The free R ft. is lifted and brought behind the L knee without emphasis.
5. 1. Step back on R. (Out of circle)
6. 1. Step onto the ball of the L ft. behind and to the right of the R.
The L ft. and the body are turned naturally somewhat to L of center.
2. Wt. is shifted back to R in place and body turns twds. center again.
7. 1. Step sideways on L to L.
8. 1. Step on R by L, or behind it.
9. 1. Step L to L. (as in 7)
10. 1. Step on R by L.
11. 1. Still facing center, step on L across in front of R.
This is accompanied by a flexing of both knees so that the step is performed in a slight crouch (but don't bend fwd.) and then
2. straighten knees somewhat.
12. 1. Bring free R leg across in front of L. It may be raised in the air and bent at the knee, or it may simply touch the ground to L and fwd. of L ft.

Styling note. The slight dip in meas. 11 may sometimes also be done in meas. 7 & 9. Steps 1, 4 and 11 are often performed with a slight preparatory lift (čukče) before stepping on the beat.

Variations

- A. Anyone in the line may choose to replace one or more of measures 1, 2 & 3 by:
 1. Step R (L) fwd. (LOD)
 - &. Close L (R) to L (R).
 2. Step R (L) fwd. (LOD)
- B. The leader and perhaps the next two or three people in line may do a slow CW turn during meas. 1-2. It can be performed with either the two single steps described in the Basic Pattern, or the step-draw-step of Variation A.

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- C. Squats: Performed only by the leader and those next to him.
They may be performed while moving to and facing R on meas. 1,2 & 3,
while moving L and facing center on meas. 7 & 9, or while moving R
and facing center on meas. 11.
Except in meas. 11, they are generally performed with feet somewhat
farther apart than knees and thighs.

Part II

Meter: 6/8

Dancers' beats: 1,2,3

Formation: as above.

meas. ct.

1. 1. Step R to R. (LOD)
2. Step L into center of circle. Hands may be brought fwd. slightly for emphasis.
3. Slight flex of L knee. Free R is brought behind L calf.
2. 1. Step back on R.(out of circle)
2-3. Two lifts or low hops on R while turning backwards CCW. (End up facing
left of center.) The free L is brought through a low arc -knee fairly
straight and foot somewhat out to the side away from R - to a position
with knee bent and L ft. near R.
3. 1. Step back on L. (LOD)
2. Step back on ball of R ft. (LOD) (or simply touch without taking wt.)
3. Shift wt. back onto L in place.

At this point begins an optional 4 measure squat sequence which may be omitted
or performed any number of times in succession before finishing the dance phrase
with measures 4 & 5. The most common sequence included two of these 4-measure
squat sequences for a dance phrase of 13 measures.

- Sq.1. 1. Large step fwd. (RLOD) on R and begin to turn CW.
2-3. Turn CW while doing two lifts or hops on R. (End up facing R of center.)
Free L is brought around while holding it somewhat straight and out to
the side. It ends up forward of R.
Note: This may be performed with an actual wt. shift onto L to L on ct. 2
and then an immediate return of wt. to R on ct. 3.
- Sq.2. 1. Leap or step onto L across in front of R (LOD) (Body turned R of center).
2. Leap into squat on both feet facing center.
3. Rise on L with free R leg held out fwd. and to the R in preparation
for the next step.
- Sq.3. 1-3. Stepping R,L,R (on cts. 1,2,3) make a complete CW turn in the area
just to the right of that occupied while squatting. (First step is to R)
- Sq.4. 1. Leap or step onto L by or slightly back of R. (Face center).
2. Leap into squat on both feet. (Face center or slightly L of center.)
3. Rise on L with free R leg extended fwd.(Face L of center)

The dance phrase ends with meas. 4 & 5 after any number of repeats of Sq.1-4.

4. This is like Sq. 1.

5. 1. Step on L fwd. (LOD)
2. Touch R near L (to side of or slightly fwd. of) without taking wt.
3. Hold.