

DRENICA

(Albania)

SOURCE: A Siptar Albanian dance from the village of the same name. It is interesting to note that because of the difficulty of the 12/16 rhythm, this dance is usually done only by good dancers who follow festivals and weddings from village to village.

MUSIC: LP - AK005. The orchestra is a group of seven musicians from Pristina who are all members of the professional ensemble, Sota.

RHYTHM: S Q S Q Q or 1 2 3 4 5

FORMATION: Mixed lines, W hand hold

N.B. These notes are to serve only as a reminder to those who have learned the dance from Atanas, not as instructions to those who have never been taught the dance.

METER: 12/16 (SQSQQ)

PATTERN

Meas

Knees slightly bent throughout dance, not stiff

PART I

- 1 Facing ctr, Step R ft to R (ct 1),
With a light leap, close L ft to R, while taking wt off of R ft for next step (ct 2)
Repeat ct 1-2 (cts 3-4).
Step R ft to R (ct 5).
- 2 Facing slightly in LOD, cross L ft in front of R (ct 1).
Step R ft to R (ct 2).
Repeat cts 1-2 (cts 3-4).
Cross L ft in front of R (ct 5).
- 3 Facing ctr, Lift on L ft while giving the R ft a lift-push out in front (ct 1).
Step R ft in place (ct 2).
Repeat ct 1 with opposite ftwk (ct 3).
Step L ft to L (ct 4).
Step R ft behind L (ct 5).
- 4 Step L ft to L (cts 1-2).
Step R ft in front of L, L ft lifted slightly behind R (ct 3).
Lift on R ft (ct 4).
Step back in place on L (ct 5).

Repeat Part I until leader signals change.

PART II

- 1-2 Repeat meas 1-2, Part I
3 Swinging R ft fwd, stamp R ft taking no wt (ct 1).
Lift on L ft, continuing to swing R ft to L (ct 2).
Cross R ft over L and step on R ft (ct 3).
Lift on R heel, while starting to bring L ft fwd (ct 4).
Lift on R heel, while bringing L ft fwd in front of R (ct 5).
4 Stamp fwd on L ft, taking no wt (ct 1).
Lift on R heel while swinging L ft behind R (ct 2).
Step L ft behind R (ct 3).
Step R ft to R (ct 4).
Cross L ft over R to face slightly in LOD (ct 5).

Repeat PART II until leader signals change.

PART III

- 1 Moving in LOD, Lift on L ft while placing heel of R ft on floor (ct 1).
Step R ft to R (ct 2).
Step on L ft (ct 3).
Step on R ft (ct 4).
Step on L ft (ct 5).
2 Repeat meas 2, Part I, more subdued
3 Facing ctr, lift on R while giving the L ft a lift-push out in front (ct 1).
Step L ft in place (ct 2).
Step on R ft in place (ct 3).
Repeat steps of meas 1 (cts 4-5).
4 Repeat meas 4,. Part 1

Repeat PART III until leader signals change.

PART IV

- 1-3 Repeat meas 1-3, Part III
4 Facing slightly RLOD, step L ft to L (cts 1-2).
Turning to face slightly in LOD, Step R ft to R (ct 3).
Cross L in front of R (cts 4-5).

Repeat PART IV until leader signals change.