

Gorarçe (Southeast Albania)

Gorarçe (gohr-AHR-cheh), of the Çamiko (Tsamiko) family, was learned by Erik Bendix from Lisette Langefeld, a Dutch researcher of Albanian dance, who learned the dance from villagers of Gorça (Goricë), near Lake Prespa and the Macedonian border. It is similar to the second part of Devolliçe, a dance of Muslim Albanians living in Macedonia. The first two figures of this Gorarçe are traditional village steps; the third has probably been choreographed for performance. Our description is based on notes and workshops by Erik Bendix, and on the presentation at the 1999 Stockton Folk Dance Camp by Steve Kotansky, who learned the dance indirectly from Bendix.

Cassettes: Lisette Langeveld, *Dansen uit Albanie en Kosovo*; 3/4 meter
Steve Kotansky, 1999 Stockton Folk Dance Camp Tape, Side A/8.

Formation: Mixed open circle facing center, leader at R end. Traditionally a village line is often led by men in T-pos; others choose either T-pos or W-pos. In performing groups T-pos is more common.

Measures	3/4 meter	PATTERN
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4 meas INTRODUCTION. No action.

I. FORWARD, BACK, R, L, WITH LEAP TO R

- 1 Facing ctr, step fwd on L heel (ct 1); bending knee, roll step fwd onto full L ft (ct 2); step back on R ft, as L ft is raised slightly (ct 3).
- 2 With wt on R ft, brush L ft fwd, beginning CCW movement of L leg close to floor (ct 1); swing L ft around behind R (ct 2); step on L ft behind R (ct 3).
- 3 Facing ctr and keeping L ft on floor, step on R ft to R in a wide stance with knees bent (ct 1); keeping knees bent and R ft on floor, shift wt onto L ft (ct 2); step on R ft across in front of L (ct 3).
- 4 Repeat meas 3 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 5 Turning to face R of ctr and moving in LOD, make a high leap onto R ft (ct 1); step on L ft across in front of R (ct 2); turning to face ctr, step on R ft to R (ct 3).

Repeat Fig I until Leader signals a change.

II. BOUNCES AND LEG SWING

- 1 Facing ctr with ft together, bounce or jump on both feet three times in place or moving slightly to R (cts 1-3).
- 2 Step heavily or stamp with wt onto Rft to R (ct 1); swing L leg fwd, knee bent, in a large CW arc (ct 2); step on L ft across in front of R (ct 3).

Repeat Fig II until Leader signals a change; then finish current Fig and repeat meas 1 as a transition into Figure III.

III. LEAP, CROSS (TWICE); TRAVEL IN LOD, RLOD

- 1-2 Repeat Figure I, meas 1-2.
- 3 Leap onto R to R, bringing L knee up in front (ct 1); step on L ft across in front of R (ct 2); step back on R ft (ct 3).
- 4 Repeat meas 3 with opp ftwk and direction, then step quickly on R ft to R (ct &).
- 5 Turning to face R of ctr and moving in LOD, step on L ft across in front of R (ct 1); step quickly on R ft beside L (ct &); step on L ft across in front of R (ct 2); hop on L ft, bringing R knee across in front of L leg, but keep R ft hooked behind L knee (ct 3); step quickly on R ft to R (ct &).
- 6-7 Repeat meas 5 twice, but turn to face ctr and omit quick step onto R ft at the end of meas 7.
- 8-14 Beginning with R heel fwd, repeat meas 1-7 with opp ftwk and direction.
Repeat Figure III until Leader signals a change.

Sequence: Figure changes are called, usually in order, by the Leader. Kotansky's suggested sequence is: Fig I-5 times; Fig II-3 1/2 times; Figure III-2 times; Fig I-2 times; Fig II-2 1/2 times; Fig III to end.