

Krajdunavsko Horo

(Bulgaria)

The title translates as “Dance from the Danube River Area.” The Danube River forms the natural border between Romania and Bulgaria. The influence of the Vlach minorities is very present in the musical and dance folklore of North Bulgaria.

The Vlachs (derived from Wallachia, now a province of Romania) were originally a nomad tribe. They settled in different areas of the Balkan Peninsula. Many villages in N.W. Bulgaria and the Danube plain region have a high concentration of Vlachs or Vlach-related descendants. They brought with them their own language, traditions, and costume. One of those is the ritual known as *Kalušari*.

The North Bulgarian dances with Vlach influences are known as *Vlaško* or *Krajdunavsko*. Very characteristic are the syncopations in the rhythm and stamps of the dances.

The following Krajdunavski variations were learned by Jaap Leegwater from Jordan Jordanov in the town of Russe in the spring of 1979.

Pronunciation: krich-DOO-nahv-skoh hoh-ROH

Music: 2/4 meter *Bulgarian Folk Dances with Jaap Leegwater,*
Stockton Edition, Track 12

Formation: Half or open circle. Hands on waist.

Steps & Styling: Face ctr with parallel feet slightly apart. This helps maintain the “navel toward center” orientation while doing the grapevine in Fig I.

Meas 2/4 meter

Pattern

8 meas INTRODUCTION. No action.

I. PART I

1 Facing ctr and moving sdwd L, hands on waist with fingers fwd, step R in front of L (ct 1); bend R knee (ct &); step L to L (ct 2); bend L knee (ct &).

2 Step R behind L (ct 1); bend R knee (ct &); step L to L (ct 2); bend L knee (ct &).

3-6 Repeat meas 1-2 two more times (three times total).

7 Low leap onto R fwd twd ctr (ct 1); turning to face diag L, low leap onto L, swinging R lower leg sdwd (ct 2).

8 Close R to L with a sharp click (*globka*) (ct 1); fall onto L, swinging R lower leg sdwd (ct &); repeat cts 1-& (cts 2,&).

9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.

II. PART II

1-2 Repeat Part I, meas 1-2.

3 Big step R twd ctr (ct 1); lift L knee in front (ct &); hop on R (ct 2); stamp L heel, without wt, next to R toes (ct &).

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5-16 Repeat meas 1-4 three times (four total).

III. PART III

1-3 Repeat Part I, meas 1-3. Hands high up: turn the inside of the hands twd each other on each ct & (syncopation) and back on each main ct (cts 1-2).

4 Step R behind L (ct 1); bend R knee (ct &); leap onto L, lifting R knee in front and placing both hands at waist (ct 2); stamp R next to L toes (ct 4).

5 Hold (ct 1); fall onto L, lifting R knee (ct &); stamp R, with wt, next to L toes (ct 2); fall onto L (ct &).

6 Stamp R with wt (ct 1); fall onto L (ct &); stamp R with wt (ct 2); fall onto L (ct &).

7 Stamp on R with wt, moving both hands slightly apart, low and at the L side of the body (ct 1); fall onto L, clapping hands (ct &); repeat cts 1,& (cts 2,&).

8 Stamp and close R next to L, moving both hands slightly apart (ct 1); hold ft position but clap twice (ct 2,&).

9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.

IV. PART IV

1 Facing and moving twd ctr, hands at the small of the back R hand holding L wrist, lift on L, moving R knee up from (turned out sdwd R) to straight fwd (ct ah); step R (ct 1); step L next to R (ct &); step R (ct 2); step L (ct &).

2-3 Repeat meas 1 twice (three times total).

4 Lift on L, moving R knee up from (turned out sdwd R) to straight fwd (ct &); step R next to L, lifting L knee (ct 1); small step L (ct ee); small step R (ct &); small step L (ct uh); small step R (ct 2); small step L (ct &).

5 Making a half- turn CCW facing out, hop on L, moving R knee up from (turned out sdwd R) to straight fwd, R hand up, L hand down (ct &); tap R heel, without wt, followed by a step R., clapping both hands in front of body (ct 1); leap onto L swinging R hand down and L hand up (ct &); step on R, moving hands back to starting position, R hand up, L hand down (ct 2); step L (ct &).

6-8 Repeat meas 5 three times (four total); make a half-turn CCW facing ctr on meas 8.

V. PART V

1 Hold hands down at sides, facing ctr, dancing in place, step R next to L toes (ct 1); fall onto L (ct &); step R slightly sdwd R (ct 2); fall onto L (ct &).

2 Step R next to L toes (ct 1); fall onto L (ct &); step R next to L (ct 2); stamp L heel, without wt, next to R toes (ct &).

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- 3 Small step L sdwd L (ct 1); low leap onto R in place, raising L knee in front (ct &); stamp L heel, without wt, next to R toes (ct 2); small step L sdwd L (ct &).
- 4 Step R across in front of L (ct 1); step back on L in place (ct &); leap onto R in front of L, turning L leg out diag L behind (ct 2); hold (ct &).
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.
- VI. PART VI
- 1 Hands in W-pos, facing ctr and moving sdwd R, step R heel (ct 1); fall onto L behind R (ct &); step R heel (ct 2); fall onto L behind R (ct &).
- 2 Leap onto R, swinging L heel behind (ct 1-&); hop on R, kicking L leg first fwd and then in an arc sdwd (cts 2-&).
- 3 Close L ft with a sharp click against R, wt equally on both ft (*globka*) (ct 1); fall onto L, raising R knee in front (ct 2).
- 4 Step R across in front of L (ct 1); step L in place (ct &); step R slightly sdwd R (ct 2); step L across in front of R (ct &).
- 5 Step R in place (ct 1); step L slightly sdwd L (ct &); step R across in front of L (ct 2); fall onto L, raising R knee in front (ct &).
- 6-10 Repeat meas 1-5.
- 11-14 Repeat meas 1-4.
- 15 Step R in place (ct 1); step L slightly bkwd (ct &); step R across in front of L (ct 2); step L in place (ct &).
- 16 Step R slightly sdwd R (ct 1); step L across in front of R (ct &); close R with a sharp click against L ft, without wt (*globka*)(ct 2); hold (ct &).
- 17-32 Repeat meas 1-16.

Sequence:

Repeat the whole dance one more time from the beginning.

Presented by Jaap Leegwater