

Opsa

(U.S. Serbian/Croatian)

Opsa (OHP-sah) is currently one of the most popular dances at Croatian and Serbian dance events in the major cities of the Upper Midwest and the Pennsylvania/Ohio area. Its melody is relatively recent, having been composed and recorded in former Yugoslavia about a decade ago. The origins of the dance *per se* are obscure - it seems to have arisen here in the U.S., possibly around Pittsburgh. On the other hand, its structure has the same 5-measure pattern as the old Serbian *Vranjanka*. I first saw and learned it at the Tamburitza Extravaganza weekend in Los Angeles, 1993, where tamburitza players and fans of tamburitza music from all over the U.S. had gathered, and *Opsa* was played and danced dozens of times.

Recordings: Jugoton Stereo CAY-814 (Nenad Jovanović), Side 2; 2/4 meter
has also been issued on cassette by two U.S. tamburitza orchestras, "Lole" and "Kapetani".

Formation: Open circle, men and women, hands joined and held at shoulder height to start.

Meas

ACTION

- 1 Facing very slightly R of center, step Rft in line of dance (1); step Lft, continuing in line of dance (2).
- 2 Continue, stepping Rft in line of dance, turning to face center (1); close Lft beside Rft, without taking weight on Lft (2).
- 3 Still facing center, step Lft slightly L (1); close Rft beside Lft, without taking weight on Rft (2).
- 4 Still facing center, step Rft slightly R (1); close Lft beside Rft, without taking weight on Lft (2).
- 5 Step Lft to L, turning to face slightly R of center (1); bring joined hands down and a little backwards as you step back on Rft (2); step Lft across, beginning to move in line of dance, at the same time raising joined hands to previous position (&).

Opsa

1. \: Nek' se igra ovo kolo, ko ga ne bi vol'o? :\
- \: Kolo ide tako lako, da zaigra može svako. ;\

Refrain:

Devojke se čuju, opsa, skoči!
Nedaju se momci, oće brže,
složnije i bolje, igraj do zore, opsa!

2. \: Nek' se igra ovo kolo, ko ga ne bi vol'o? :\
- \: Momci, cure, svi u kolo, nek' se vije naokolo, :\
3. \: Nek' se igra ovo kolo, ko ga ne bi vol'o? :\
- \: Zurle ječe, bubanj bije, vesele se meraklije. :\