

# Ora

(East Serbia)

Source: Martin Koenig collected this dance from the villages of Halovo and Gradskovo in the late 1960's. I subsequently traveled there in 1971 and had an opportunity to view these same dances in its traditional environment. These villages are in the *vlach* region of East Serbia where Bulgaria, Romania and Serbia share common borders. The vast majority of the people in this area speak a Romanian dialect. While traveling in that area I was particularly impressed with the strength of the local music and dance traditions. As with many other dances from this region, the dances have a flat-footed character, with small steps close to the ground. Each figure is danced as many times as the leader of the line desires, however, the leader often takes musical 'queues' to change figures when the melody changes.

Pronunciation: ORA

Formation: Lines of men and women using a belt hold, L-arm over, R-arm under.

Rhythm: 2/4

Record: Balkan-Arts MK-2h BA 1002  
Mendocino Folklore Camp 2000 Tape

<u>Meas.</u>	<u>Ct.</u>	<u>Figure I.</u>
1	1	Facing ctr and moving to R, step sdwd to R onto RF.
	2	Step onto LF beside RF.
2	1-2	Repeat pattern Meas 1., this figure.
3	1	Step sdwd to R onto RF.
	2	Slight <i>chukche</i> * on RF as LF begins to move diag fwd to R.
4	1	Step diag fwd to R onto LF.
	2	Slight <i>chukche</i> * on LF as free RF lifts slightly behind LF.
5	1	Step straight bkwd onto RF.
	2	Slight <i>chukche</i> * on RF as free LF lifts next to R-ankle.
6-7		Repeat action of Meas 1-2, this figure, but with opposite footwork and direction.
8	1	Step sdwd to L onto LF.
	2	Slight <i>chukche</i> * on LF as free RF lifts next to L-ankle.

## Figure II. ("Basic Kolo" step)

1	1	Facing ctr, hop in place on LF.
	&	Step slightly sdwd to R onto RF.
	2	Step onto LF beside RF.
2	1	Step slightly sdwd to R onto RF.
	2	Hop in place on RF.
3-4		Repeat action of Meas 1-2, this figure, but with opposite footwork and direction.

## Figure III.

& Stamp onto RF in place.

(continued)

(continued)

## Ora

(continued)

- |     |   |   |
|-----|---|---|
| 1   | 1 | Step in place onto RF.  |
|     | & | Stamp onto LF in place.   |
|     | 2 | Step in place onto LF.  |
|     | & | Stamp onto RF in place.   |
| 2   | 1 | Step onto RF in place.  |
|     | 2 | chukche* in place on RF, free LF is lifted, knee bent.          |
| 3-4 |   | Repeat action of Meas 1-2, this figure, but with opposite ftwk. |

NOTE:           Body does not twist R or L during this figure.

### Figure IV.

- |     |   |   |
|-----|---|---|
| 1-2 |   | Repeat pattern of Meas 1-2, figure III.                                 |
|     | & | Stamp in place of LF.   |
| 3   | 1 | Step slightly fwd onto LF.  |
|     | 2 | Chug fwd onto both ft, knees slightly flexed.                           |
| 4   | 1 | Chug bkwd onto both ft, knees straight.                                 |
|     | 2 | Pause. During the pause, lift R-knee in preparation for repeat of step. |

NOTE:           chukche\* - a hop where the hopping foot doesn't leave the ground, a bounce.

Notes by Larry Weiner - 6/2000

As presented by Larry Weiner at Mendocino Folklore Camp, 2000