

PRAVO TRAKIJSKO HORO
Bulgaria

The "Pravo Horo" is the most wide spread and most popular folk dance throughout the whole of Bulgaria. Every region and every village has its own version reflecting the typical local style and characteristics. A Northern Bulgarian "Pravo" ("Dunavsko Horo or Svištovsko Horo") is different from the "Pravo Trakijsko" or the Pravo type ("Opas") which is done in Dobrudža. Still they are based on the same three measure basic pattern consisting of two small steps (quick-quick) followed by two bigger ones (slow-slow). Beyond the typical local variations one can find this typical "Pravo" character. Similar dances are also done in other Balkan countries, like the "Hora" in Romania and the "Hassapikos" in Greece.

Due to migrations, travelling musicians that are hired for local festivals and weddings the "Pravo Trakijsko Horo" nowadays has gained a great popularity outside of the Trakija region. It is done at weddings and festival all over the country and seemed to be addepted as the national "Pravo Horo."

The following patterns are good examples of some of the most popular variations. After starting with the slow basic step sdwd or fwd and bkwd the music often becomes more lively and faster. Usually the first dancer commands the different figures.

TRANSLATION: "Pravo Horo" (straight dance) from Trakija region.

RECORD: "Nišava", LP NIS1212, Side I, Band 5; or
any other typical Thracian Pravo recording.

RHYTHM: 6/8 or 1/2

STYLE: Slight knee bend position, dancing on the whole ft.

FORMATION: Open or half circle. Hands in belt hold pos (L over R).

METER: 2/4

PATTERN

Meas.

PART 1: BASIC:

- 1 Facing ctr and moving sdwd,
step on R (ct 1);
step L in front of R (ct 2).
- 2 Step on R (ct 1);
slight bouncing on R, lift L off floor across and behind R
(ct 2).
- 3 Step L behind R (ct 1);
lift R off floor (ct 2).

Cont

PART 2: FORWARD & BACK

- 1 Facing and moving diag R fwd,
step R-L (cts 1-2).
- 2 Step R bending knees (ct 1);
bounce on R and lift L off floor (ct 2).
- 3 Step L bending knees (ct 1);
step R sdwd R in a slight stride, bending both knees (ct 2).
- 4 Raise on R as L is lifted off floor (ct 1);
step L diag R bkwd (ct 2).
- 5-6 Repeat meas 2-3 diag R bkwd.

PART 3: DROBINKA FWD

- 1 Facing and moving diag R fwd, lift R knee in front (ct &);
stamp R fwd with wt (ct 1);
step (fall) on L next to R, lifting R off floor (ct 2);
scuff R fwd (ct &).
- 2-6 Repeat meas 2-6 of Part 2.

PART 4: DROBINKA SDWD

- 1 Facing ctr and moving sdwd L, lift R knee in front (ct &);
stamping R across L with wt (ct 1);
step L sdwd L (ct 2);
scuff R across L (ct &).
- 2 Step L sdwd L with bent knee (ct 1);
step R sdwd R in stride pos, bending both knees (ct 2).
- 3-6 Repeat meas 3-6 of Part 2.

PART 5: SKOK (Jump)

- 1 Repeat meas 1 of Part 2. (diag fwd-R,L)
- 2 Step R diag R fwd with bent knee (ct 1);
lift L fwd turning out and pointing straight diag R fwd (ct 2);
- 3 With wt on both ft (tog), chug bkwd (ct 1);
low jump slightly fwd on both ft (ct 2).
- 4-6 Repeat meas 3-6 of Part 2 straight bkwd.

PART 6: DVOJNA (Double)

- 1-3 Repeat meas 1-3 of Part 5.
- 4 Repeat meas 3 of Part 5 turning to face ctr.
- 5-7 Repeat meas 3-6 of Part 2 straight bkwd.

PART 7:

- 1 Facing and moving twd ctr,
scuff R fwd (ct &);
step on R (ct 1);
scuff L fwd (ct &);
step on L (ct 2);
- 2 Scuff R fwd (ct &);
step R diag R fwd (ct 1);
step L behind R (ct &);
step R fwd (ct 2).
- 3 Repeat meas 2 with opp ftwk and dir.

cont

- 4 Step R fwd (ct 1);
low jump on both ft (tog) in place (ct 2).
5-7 Repeat meas 4-6 of Part 2 straight bkwd.

PART 8: PRISITVANE

- 1 Facing and moving diag L fwd,
step R-L (cts 1-2).
2 Gradually turning and moving diag R fwd,
step R-L-R (cts 1,&,2).
3 step R-L-R (cts 1,&,2).
3-6 Repeat meas 1-3, facing ctr, moving diag R & L bkwd.

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Description by Jaap Leegwater © 1984