



PRESKAČANKA  
(Northeast Bulgaria)

Prehs-KAH-chahn-kah

Learned by Yves Moreau, fall of 1971, from village dance group in Gecovo, Razgrad District, Northeast Bulgaria. Preskačanka belongs to the family of the well-known Pajduško Horo danced throughout Bulgaria and Macedonia. This version is very popular among the "kapanci" people. The "kapanci" are said to be direct descendants of the early Bulgarian settlers ("protobulgarians") who came from the Volga River area with their leader Asparoukh in the 5th century A.D. The term "kapanci" is derived from "na kapki," referring to special "dotted" embroidery stitch found on their costumes. The "kapanci" live primarily in about twenty distinct villages situated around the towns of Razgrad, Šumen, and Târgovište in Northeast Bulgaria. They have many special dances, songs, and rituals. The "kapanci" wedding is especially colorful.

Record: Worldtone WT-YM 003 a.  
Meter: 5/16. 1-2, 1-2-3. Counted here as 1,2.  
Formation: Short lines of men and women, hands joined down at sides. Face ctr. Wt on L.  
Style: Kapanski styling is sort of a mixture of quick North Bulgarian movements and that special touch of Dobrudžan-like heaviness. There is therefore a slight knee bend during the dance and the arm movements are firm.

Measure

Pattern

No introduction music. Dance may start at beginning of any musical phrase.

I. "NA MJASTO" (In place) Nah Mee-YAS-toh

- 1 Step on R in front of L, simultaneously, arms swing fwd, about parallel to floor (ct 1). Shift wt back to L in place, arms start swinging bwd (ct 2).
- 2 Step bwd on R ft, arms swing bwd (ct 1). Step on L in place, arms start swinging fwd (ct 2).
- 3 Repeat pattern of meas 1, exactly.
- 4 Small hop on L ft in place, arms swing back (ct 1). Small step on R slightly to R, arms start swinging fwd (ct 2).
- 5-8 Repeat pattern of meas 1-4, reversing ftwork.

II. "NA OKOLO" (Around) Nah OH-kolo

- 1 Small hop on L ft in place, hands swing fwd (ct 1), step fwd on R, arms start swinging bwd (ct 2).
- 2 Small leap fwd onto L ft next to R, hands swing bwd (ct 1), small step fwd on R, arms start swing fwd (ct 2).
- 3-8 Repeat action of meas 1-2, alternating ftwork. Describe a CW oval floor pattern, i.e., moving fwd, to R, bwd, and to L, ending in orig position. (Two measures for each direction.)

III. "NAPRED-NAZAD" (Forward and back) Nah-PRED Nah-ZAHD

- 1 Step on R, crossing in front of L, simultaneously hands come up to "W" position slightly fwd but point to L (ct 1), shift wt on L in place, hands remain pointing to L (ct 2).
- 2 Step to R with R, hands now point to R (ct 1), small step fwd on L, hands remain pointing to L (ct 2).
- 3-4 Repeat pattern of meas 1-2, exactly.

(continued)

PREŠKAČANKA (continued)III. "NAPRED-NAZAD" (continued)

- 5 Small hop on L ft in place, hands start moving fwd and upward (ct 1),  
 step on R in front of L, hands move downward (ct 2).  
 6 Shift wt back on L ft in place (ct 1), shift wt onto R ft in place  
 (ct 2).  
 7-8 Repeat action of meas 5-6, reversing ftwork.  
 9 Small hop on L ft in place (ct 1). Step bwd on R (ct 2).  
 10 Still moving bwd, repeat pattern of meas 9, reversing ftwork.  
 11-12 Repeat pattern of meas 9-10.  
 13 Wt on L, facing ctr, cross R over L (ct 1), shift wt back onto L (ct 2).  
 14 Small hop on L ft in place (ct 1), small step on R slightly R (ct 2).  
 15-16 Repeat action of meas 13-14, reversing ftwork.

Presented by Yves Moreau.

Description by Yves Moreau and Bev and Ginny Wilder.

