

Name of dance: Baba Djurdja


Pronunciation: bah-bah dzhoor-dzhyah

Place of origin: the village of Dračevo, just south of Skopje

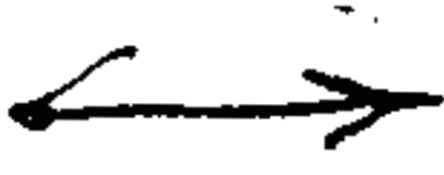





Learned from: Mile Kolarov, 1975




Source of music: *Novo Selo: Traditional Music of Macedonia* (Balkan Arts LP BA-US-1001, Side 1 Band 3)

About the dance: This dance has a specific legend to it, as related by Mile Kolarov. The Beg (Turkish administrator) of Čupurlija, an area near Dračevo, had selected a young Macedonian woman to spend the night with him, during which he abused her. When commanded to dance the next morning, she could not; thereupon, an old Macedonian servant woman, Baba Djurdja (Grandmother Georgia), offered to dance in her stead, to which the Beg agreed. The steps of this dance are imitative of the faltering and stumbling steps of this old woman. Mile heard this legend from his oldest brother's mother-in-law, who said she was a little girl at the time of this incident in the 1870s or 1880s.

Rhythm: 7/8, counted 
or as 1-2 1-2 1 1-2
or as slow slow quick slow (S,S,Q,S)

Formation: Line dance, hands held at about shoulder height.

Direction	Measure	Step
Step One:		
	1	Moving to the R, walk L (ct. S), walk R (ct. S), take a small limping step on L (ct. Q), walk R (ct. S).
	2	Repeat Measure 1.
	3	Walk L (ct. S), walk R (ct. S), turning to face center, lift on the ball of R foot (ct. Q), step back on L away from center (ct. S).
	4	Step backwards onto R (ct. S), step back onto L (ct. S), lift on the ball of the L foot (ct. Q), step forward onto R foot (ct. S).
	5	Step forward onto L (ct. S), step forward onto R (ct. S), lift on the ball of the R foot (ct. Q), step back onto L foot (ct. S).
	6	Repeat Measure 4, perhaps taking the last step onto R a bit to the R to lead into the next set of travel steps.
		
Step Two:		
	1-4	Repeat Measures 1-4 of Step One .
	5	Step forward onto L (ct. S), step forward onto R (ct. S),

Direction	Measure	Step
		brush forward with L foot (ct. Q), continue sweeping L leg in a broad CCW arc to bring L ankle behind R knee while at the same time lifting on the ball of R foot (this measure actually ends while up on the ball of the R foot)(ct. S).
	6	Come down onto full R foot (ct. S), step back onto L(ct. S), lift up on ball of L foot (ct. Q), step forward and somewhat to the R onto R (ct. S).
	7-8	Repeat Measures 5-6.
Step Three:		
This step is only for the men. They drop hands and dance solo.		
	1-2	Repeat Measures 1-2 of Step One , but walking faster.
	3	Step forward onto L foot (ct. S), begin walking in a small CCW circle on R foot (ct. S), continue the CCW circle by hopping slowly on R foot to face back to the L (cts. Q,S).
	4	Hop again on R foot, completing the circle to again face in the line of travel (ct. S), step back onto L foot (ct. S), lift on the ball of the L foot (ct. Q), step forward to the R onto R foot (ct. S).
	5-8	Repeat Measures 5-8 of Step Two , but facing the line of travel rather than the center.

Dance notes by Eran Fraenkel of Novo Selo,
Reformatted with small changes by Erik Bendix