

Baba Djurdja

Macedonia

Baba Djurdja (BAH-bah DJOOR-djah) is from Dračevo, near Skopje. The story of Grandmother Georgia, as learned from Atanas Kolarovski, concerns a cook whose granddaughter was commanded to dance before her master, a Turkish Pasha. The girl and grandma protested vigorously that she didn't know any dances. Finally the Pasha allowed Georgia to substitute for her granddaughter in a performance that elicited laughter and derision. The dance was taught by Atanas at Stockton Camp ('66, '80) and Kolo Festival ('64, '82). Here we follow the patterns taught at NS Teachers' Workshop ('93) and Stockton Camp ('94) by Michael Ginsburg, who learned the dance from Pece Atanasovski.

Records: Atanas Kolarovski: AK-005, Side B/3; Folkraft LP-24, Side A/3.
 Cassettes: Michael Ginsburg: NS Teachers' Conference, Oct. '93, Side A/3; Balkan Feast, Side B/3.
 Rhythm: Meter: 7/8 = 2+2+1+2 (AK), or 11/8 = 3+3+2+3 (MG); counted here as 1,2,3,4 = S,S,Q,S.
 Formation: Mixed lines with hands joined in W-pos. Face diagonally right of center.
 Steps: Each step on ct 2 is preceded by a preparatory lift on the supporting foot.

Measures	7/8 or 11/8 meter	PATTERN
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INTRODUCTION None. Dance begins with any musical measure at discretion of leader.

I. TRAVEL, LIFT AND SCOOP

- 1 Lift on L and raise R leg in front of L (ct 1); leaving L ft in place, take a long step on R in LOD (ct 2); low leap onto L as R lifts bkws, knee bent (ct 3); step on R in LOD (ct 4).
- 2 Leap low across R onto L in LOD (ct 1); repeat meas 1, cts 2, 3, 4 (cts 2, 3, 4).
- 3 Repeat meas 2.
- 4 Facing diag R of ctr, step on L across in front of R (ct 1); pivoting to face ctr, step back on R, raising L leg fwd in front of R with bent knee (ct 2); lift on R (ct 3); bouncing on R, scoop L leg diagonally down and bkws across R (ct 4).
- 5 Lifting on R, raise L leg fwd in front of R with bent knee (ct 1); step on L beside R, raising R leg in front of L with bent knee (ct 2); with reversed ftwk, repeat meas 1, cts 3, 4 (cts 3, 4).
- 6-7 Repeat meas 5 twice with alternating ftwk.

II. TRAVEL AND CROSSING STEP

- 1-3 Repeat Figure I, meas 1-3.
- 4 Facing LOD and bending fwd with knees bent, circle L leg in CW arc around in front of R and leap fwd onto L (ct 1); circling R leg in CCW arc around in front of L, leap fwd onto R (ct 2); straightening body, repeat movement of ct 1 (ct 3); pivoting to face ctr, step back on R, lifting L leg in front with bent knee (ct 4).
 Note: Lower arms to V-pos during first two counts of measure 4.
- 5 Hopping on R, raise L knee fwd (ct 1); step on L beside R (ct 2); step on R across in front of L (ct 3); step back on L, raising R in front with bent knee (ct 4).
- 6-7 Repeat meas 5 twice with alternating ftwk.

SEQUENCE: Figure I is repeated until the leader signals change. Figure II then continues to the end. With his music Michael Ginsburg preferred to change to Figure II at the return of the Gaida, after Figure I had been danced approximately ten times.