

BABA DŽURDŽA
(Macedonia)

This dance is from the region of Skopje. Atanas remembers dancing it when he was only five years old, but it is still danced today. Mile Kolarov, Atanas's uncle, tells the story which was handed down to him by previous generations, concerning the origins of this dance. Back during the time that this area was under the control of the Turks, an old woman named Baba Džurdža was serving as cook to the local Pasha. While the Pasha was delighted with her cooking, when he wanted to be entertained he preferred young, beautiful girls. He asked Baba Džurdža to bring her granddaughter to the court to dance for him. Grandmother refused, saying her granddaughter did not know any dances, but the Pasha insisted that she be brought and sent his servants to force her to come and dance for him. When the granddaughter was told to dance, she replied that she did not know how to dance, which angered the Pasha greatly. Fearing for her granddaughter's life, the old woman insisted that she be permitted to dance in the girl's place and finally was permitted to do so. However, since the old woman could only dance in a manner befitting her years, all the people in the court laughed and ridiculed her.

Baba Džurdža is danced for recreation in the nearby villages, not in the city. When visiting the Skopje area, and attending a dance, don't -- under any circumstances -- lead the dance. Also, do not start a new line since the man leading the original line has paid the orchestra for the privilege of leading this dance, and would be very angry if some one else tried to take over from him, and much unpleasantness could result. Translation: Grandmother Džurdža.

Pronunciation: BAH-bah DJOOR-djah

Record: Songs and Dances of Yugoslavia, AK-005, Side B/4.
FOLKRAFT LP-24, Side A/3 (Gajdas and Tapan).

Rhythm: 7/16 counted: $\frac{1,2}{1}$ $\frac{3,4}{2}$ $\frac{5}{3}$ $\frac{6,7}{4}$ (S, S, Q, S)

Formation: A line dance with hands joined and down, "V" pos.

Sequence: Each Figure consists of Figure I, Part A plus a variation of Part B. Each Figure may be repeated as desired before moving on to the next Figure.

Meas

Pattern

FIGURE I.

A

- 1 Moving in LOD do one grapevine: step L across R (ct 1); step R to R (ct 2); step L behind R (ct 3); step R to R (ct 4).
- 2-3 Repeat action of meas 1 twice (three times in all).
- 4 Step L across R (ct 1); step R next to L (ct 2); hop on R (ct 3); step L in place, lift R leg fwd (ct 4).
To repeat Part A, lift on L for ct 1 of meas 1.

BABA DŽURDŽA (continued)B

- 1 Lift on L, raise R leg fwd (ct 1); step R in place and lift L leg (ct 2); flex R leg (ct 3); straighten R while lowering L in front of R leg without wt.
- 2 Repeat action of meas 1 with opp ftwk.
- 3-4 Repeat action of meas 1-2.

FIGURE II.A: Repeat action of Figure I-A.

B: Similar to Figure I-B, except with double flex as follows:
 1 Hop on L (ct 1); step on R, lift L leg fwd (ct 2); bounce on R (ct 3); bounce on R, bending knee more for greater emphasis and lower L in front of R leg without wt (ct 4).

- 2 Repeat action of meas 1, with opp ftwk.
- 3 Repeat action of meas 1.
- 4 Hop on R (ct 1); step L,R,L in place (cts 2,3,4).

FIGURE III.A: Repeat action of Figure I-A.

B: Similar to Figures I-B and II-B, but with cross steps.

- 1 Lift on L (ct 1); step R in place (ct 2); step L across R (ct 3); step R in place (ct 4).
- 2 Repeat action of meas 1 with opp ftwk.
- 3 Repeat action of meas 1.
- 4 Lift on R (ct 1); step L in place (ct 2); step R in place (ct 3); step L across R.

FIGURE IV.A: Repeat action of Figure I-A.B

- 1 In place, repeat action of meas 1, Figure III.
- 2 Turn CCW using same ftwk as meas 2, Figure III.
- 3 Repeat action of meas 3, Figure III.
- 4 Turn CCW using same ftwk as meas 4, Figure III.

FIGURE V.A: Repeat action of Figure I-A.B.

- 1 Hop on L (ct 1); moving RLOD, step R,L,R,L (cts &,2,3,4).
- 2 Hop on L (ct 1); step R,L,R in place (cts 2,3,4).
- 3-4 Repeat action of meas 1-2, with opp ftwk and direction.

FIGURE VI.A: Repeat action of Figure I-A.B.

- 1 Hop on L (ct 1); moving in LOD, step R,L,R,L (cts &,2,3,4).
- 2 Hop on L in place (ct 1); step on R in place (ct &); step L in place (ct 2); hop on L (ct 3); step on R in place (ct 4).
- 3-4 Repeat action of meas 1-2 with opp ftwk and direction.

Presented by Atanas Kolarovski