

BABA DJURDJA  
Macedonia (Skopje Area)

Baba Djurdja (grandmother Georgia) is named after an old woman who lived to save a young girl from the hands of the Turks. Near the end of the Turkish occupation of the Balkans, when the situation was very chaotic, some Turks would raid villages and steal what they could. They would then ask the village girls to do a dance for them. In one such instance, Baba Djurdja danced instead and this dance is what the Turks saw. It is still done with a slight limping style, especially at the beginning when the music is slower.

Source: As learned by Tom Deering from Atanas Kolarovski and Pece Atanasovski.

Pronounced: BA-ba GHUR-gha (The "gh" is an asperated hard "g")

Rhythm: 7/8 counted: Slow, Slow, Quick, Slow  
                                   1      2      3      4  
                                   2/8   2/8   1/8   2/8

This rhythm was referred to by one Macedonian musician as an "inside-out seven."

Recordings: RTB LP 1394: Pece Atanasovski Orchestra  
 Folkraft LP-24: Two Gajdas and Tapan  
 Balkan Arts BA-US-1001: Novo Selo Orchestra

Formation: Originally a women's dance, now danced in mixed lines with arms down ("V" position).

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as Ct BASIC STEP

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The very first measure of the dance is danced with the following pattern only once, although it is the basic moving step for the rest of the dance. The first measure of each step repeat is noted at the end of the pattern.

- (1) 1 Facing slightly and moving R, small Leap forward onto L ft  
 2 Step forward onto R ft, bending knees  
 3 Springing up off of R, Step on L ft replacing R  
 4 Step forward onto R ft

This step looks somewhat like a chasse--it is meant to imitate the old woman, Baba Djurdja.

2-3 REPEAT measure 1 twice more

- 4 1 Turning to face center, Leap slightly forward onto L ft  
 2 Step back and slightly R onto R ft in place, Lifting L leg low  
 3 Rise up to ball of R ft  
 4 Come down to normal R ft

- 5 1 Hop on R ft  
 2 Leap to L ft beside R Lifting R leg low  
     (Switch lifted leg)  
 3 Rise up to ball of L ft  
 4 Come down to normal L ft

6 REPEAT measure 5 with opposite footwork

*Continued...*

- 7 REPEAT measure 5
- 1 1 Turning slightly to face R, Hop on L ft lifting R across  
L shin
- 2 Moving R (LOD), Step forward onto R ft, bending knees
- 3 Springing up off of R ft, Step on L ft replacing R ft
- 4 Step forward onto R ft

VARIATION

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- 1-3 REPEAT measures 1-3 of the Basic Step
- 4 1 Facing center, Leap slightly forward onto L ft
- 2 Step back and slightly R onto R ft in place
- 3 Small Leap to L ft in front of R ft
- 4 Step on R ft in place
- 5 1 Hop on R ft, lifting L leg
- 2 Slight Step L onto L ft
- 3 Leap to R ft directly in front of L ft
- 4 Step on L ft in place
- 6 REPEAT measure 5 with opposite footwork
- 7 REPEAT measure 5

To either the Basic step or the Variation the leader can add a single clockwise turn. The turn is initiated on count 1 of the fourth measure, and continues throughout most of the measure with no change of step work.

ce Description by Tom Deering