

**Baba Djurdja**  
**БАБА ЃУРЃЈА**  
**Macedonia (Skopje Area)**

Baba Djurdja (grandmother Georgia) is named after an old woman who danced 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.

**Rhythm:** 7/16 - Counted:

Slow,    Slow,    Quick,    Slow  
           1        2        3        4  
           2/16    2/16    1/16    2/16

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).

**Meas Ct      BASIC STEP**

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

*continued...*

6           **REPEAT** measure 5 with opposite footwork  
             **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** - Usually done as the music speeds up

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.

Dance Description by Tom Deering