

Baldazka

(Bulgaria)

Learned by Yves Moreau in July, 1969, from Atanas Nikolov, leader of a folk dance group in Harmanli, Thrace. This dance is quite common in Ljubimec and other villages around Svilengrad, a town in western* Thrace on the Bulgarian-Turkish border.

*This dance is from Eastern Thrace.

Formation: Mixed lines. "W" pos with hands extended fwd at about eye level face LOD. Wt on L.

Style: Unsophisticated - danced mostly by older people. Steps are heavy. Ft remain close to floor.

Measure Pattern

No introduction

I. Right and Left

- 1 Moving in LOD, step R (ct 1). Step L (ct 2).
- 2 Face ctr, step R to R (ct 1). Step L behind R (ct &). Step R to R (ct 2). Touch L next to R (ct &).
- 3-4 Repeat action of measure 1-2, reversing ftwork and direction.
- 5-8 Repeat action of measure 1-4, Part I.

II. Forward and Back

- 1 Facing and moving twd ctr, small leap onto ball of R ft (ct 1). Step fwd on L, bending knee (ct &). Repeat for cts 2,&.
- 2 Repeat action of measure 1, Part II, but stamp L next to R, no wt, on final "&" ct.
- 3-4 Repeat action of measure 1-2, Part II reversing ftwork and direction.
- 5-8 Repeat action of measure 1-4, Part II, exactly.

Hand Movements for Part II: During each measure of Part II hands describe a small circle, moving smoothly fwd, down, back and up to original pos.

III, IV

Repeat Parts I, II exactly.

V. Right and Left with Stamps

- 1-8 Repeat action of measure 1-8, Part I, substituting a stamp with no wt for the "touch" (measure 2, ct 2&).

VI. Forward and Back with Stamps

- 1 Repeat action of measure 1, Part II.
- 2 Small leap fwd onto ball of R ft (ct 1). Stamp L next to R twice, no wt (ct &,2).

3-4 Repeat action measure 1-2, Part VI, reversing ftwork and direction.
5-8 Repeat action of measure 1-4, Part VI.

VII, VIII

Repeat Parts V, VI, exactly.

IX. Right and Backward

Hands swing naturally throughout.

1 Facing and moving LOD, step R (ct 1). Step L (ct 2).
2 Step R, L, R (cts 1,&2), turning to face ctr on ct 2.
3 Step bkwd L (ct 1). Step bkwd R (ct 2).
4 In place, 3 light stamps, L, R, L (cts 1,&2).
5-8 Repeat action of measure 1-4, Part IX.

X, XI, XII

Repeat Parts VI, IX, Vi