

Berka

(Berovka, Serbia)

This dance is named after the village of the same name. This is well-known as a Macedonian dance, but this version is as it is danced in all the border areas of South Serbia and Northern Macedonia. It was learned from Petar Rančev and his father, Dimitrije, who are widely known village dancers. Petar is also an outstanding clarinetist. Dimitrije plays the kaval and all other types of wood folk flutes. He is 74 years of age.

Pronunciation:

Cassette: Slobodan Slović Cassette 1991 Side A/2.

2/4 meter

Formation: Mixed open lines, belt hold (L over, R under). Change variations at leader's option.

Meas

Pattern

VARIATION I. Facing slightly R and moving R.

- 1 With small walking steps, step on R (ct 1); step on L (ct 2).
- 2 Repeat meas 1.
- 3 Step on R (ct 1); step on L beside R (ct &); step on R fwd (ct 2).
- 4 Step on L (ct 1); step on R beside L (ct &); step on L fwd (ct 2).
- 5 Turning to face ctr, step on R (ct 1); swing L across (ct 2).
- 6 Step on R (ct 1); swing L across (ct 2).
- 7 Step on L slightly diag to L (ct 1); close R to L with wt (ct 2).
- 8 Turning slightly to LOD, step on L in place (ct 1); step on R (ct &); step on L (ct 2).

VARIATION II. Facing and moving LOD.

- 1 Hop on L (ct 1); step on R (ct &); step on L (ct 2).
- 2 Repeat meas 1.
- 3 Step on R (ct 1); step on L (ct &); step on R (ct 2).
- 4 Step on L (ct 1); step on R (ct &); step on L (ct 2).
- 5 Turning twd ctr, step on R to R (ct 1); step on L behind R (ct &); step on R beside L (ct 2).
- 6 Step on L in place, still facing ctr (ct 1); hop slightly on L, swinging R back from knee (ct &); hop slightly on L, swinging R fwd (ct 2).
- 7 Turning body slightly to L, with straight knee, step on R across in front of L (ct 1); step back on L (ct &); step fwd on R (ct 2).
- 8 Hop on R, turning to face LOD, raising L knee very slightly (ct 1); step on L in LOD (ct 2).

Presented by Slobodan Slović