

ČUJEŠ MALA (or ŠUŠU MILE)

Notes by Dick Crum for *ŽviLA TAMBURA '93*

Čuješ mala ('listen, little girl') appeared in the U.S. sometime between 1928 and 1935. In the 1950's it was one of the most popular kolos in the eastern repertory from Chicago to New York.

Another kolo, *Šušu Mile* (play on the male name 'Mile'), is contemporary with *Čuješ mala* and identical to it except for its music.

There were many lyrics to *Čuješ mala*, often sung by musicians, and sometimes by dancers; here are some examples:

*Čuješ, čuješ, čuješ, mala,
bi l' poljubac dala?*

Listen, listen, listen, little girl,
would you give a kiss?

*Dala, dala, kako ne bi dala,
al' bi se kajala.*

I would, I would, of course I would,
but I'd regret it afterward.

*Čuješ, čuješ, čuješ, seko,
namjesti se lijepo.*

Listen, listen, listen, kid,
get nice and comfortable.

*Hoću, hoću, hoću, diko,
gdje ne vidi niko.*

I will, I will, I will, darling,
where nobody can see.

*Čuješ, čuješ, čuješ, mala,
dosta si varala.*

Listen, listen, listen, little girl,
enough of this teasing.

*Neznaš, neznaš, neznaš mala
što si obećala.*

You don't know, don't know, don't know, little
girl
what you promised.

*Obe-, obe-, obećala
al' još nisi dala.*

You prom-, prom-, promised
but you haven't kept your promise.

*A sad, a sad, a sada se
za drugog udala.*

And now, and now, and now you've
married some one else.

DESCRIPTION OF DANCE

Formation Open circle or chain of dancers, mixed male and female, hands joined down at sides ("V" position).

Meter 2/4

Style note: Dancer hardly moves from original place. Style is "tight", i.e., knees flex and recoil like tight springs on each count 1. All steps are on the ball of the foot or flat toe; heels do not contact the floor except incidently.

These dances are a variant *Kokonješte* or *Žikino kolo*. Facing very slightly right of center:

- Meas 1 ct 1 Short, emphatic step Rft to the right (almost in place) with springy flex of R knee.
 ct & R knee straightens
 ct 2 Hop on Rft slightly to R (almost in place).
 ct & Step Lft across in front of Rft; turn to face center.
- Meas 2 ct 1 Facing directly toward center, short, emphatic step Rft to the R (almost in place) with springy flex of R knee.
 ct & R knee straightens
 ct 2 Press L toe firmly to floor directly in front of R toe, giving the appearance of sharing weight with Rft and bounce once in this position.
 ct & Bounce again with feet still in position of count 2.
- Meas 3 ct 1 Still facing directly toward center, short, emphatic step Lft to the L (almost in place) with springy flex of L knee.
 ct & L knee straightens
 ct 2 Press R toe firmly to floor directly in front of L toe, giving the appearance of sharing weight with Lft and bounce once in this position.
 ct & Bounce again with feet still in position of count 2.
- Meas 4 ct 1 Still facing directly toward center, short, emphatic step Rft to the R (almost in place) with springy flex of R knee.
 ct & R knee straightens
 ct 2 Press L toe firmly to floor directly in front of R toe, giving the appearance of sharing weight with Rft and bounce once in this position.
 ct & Bounce again with feet still in position of count 2; turn to face slightly L of center.
- Meas 5-8 Reverse movements of measures 1-4, beginning with Lft and moving L with opposite footwork.