Drjanovska Râčenica

(Bulgaria, Severnjaško)

Drjanovska Râčenica (dree-AHN-ohf-skah ruh-tcheh-NEE-tsah), presented by Yves Moreau at the 1998 Stockton Folk Dance Camp, is a slow dance often performed by older villagers. The form is typical of the Balkan Range towns of northeastern Bulgaria, where the culture is urban, elegant, and relatively sophisticated. The a capella music (song "Izgrjala e mesečinka...") by the group Trio Bulgarka-Penev is typical of the region.

Cassette: Yves Moreau: Bulgarian Folk Dances, YM-UOP-98, Side A/5.

Rhythm: Meter = 7/8 = 2+2+3, counted here as 1, 2, 3 or O, O, S

Formation: Mixed lines of dancers facing center with hands joined up in W-pos.

Styling: Fairly large, soft steps. Knees are slightly bent throughout. Proud and calm.

Measures 7/8 meter PATTERN

INTRODUCTION.

- Beginning with song, "Izgrjala e mesečinka...", step on R slightly sdwd to R (ct 1); step on L beside R (ct 2); step on R beside L (ct 3).
- 2-4 Repeat meas 1 three times, alternating ftwk and direction.

I. TRAVELLING IN LOD

- Turning to face LOD, step fwd on R (ct 1); step on L beside R (ct 2); step fwd on R (ct 3).
- 2 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk.
- Turning to face ctr, take a large step to R on R and extend arms fwd and down (ct 1); hold (ct 2); step on L behind R, as arms continue down (ct 3).
- Turning to face LOD, step fwd on R, as arms swing fwd and start up (ct 1); hold (ct 2); hop lightly on R, raising arms into W-pos (ct 3).
- 5 Step fwd on L in LOD (ct 1); hold (ct 2); hop lightly on L, turning to face ctr and swinging R leg around fwd (ct 3).
- Still facing ctr, step on R across L in RLOD (ct 1); hold (ct 2); hop lightly on R, picking up L ft slightly behind R leg (ct 3).
- Facing ctr, hop lightly or lift on R, while extending arms upward (ct 1); step on L to L, extending arms fwd (ct 2); step on R behind L, bringing arms down (ct 3).
- Take a large step on L to L, beginning to move arms up (ct 1); hold (ct 2); with light hop or lift on L, raise joined hands to W-pos (ct 3).

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II. FORWARD AND BACK WITH ARM EXTENSIONS

- Facing ctr, step fwd with a large soft step on R, pushing joined hands fwd and raising L ft off floor (ct 1); hold (ct 2); step on L beside R, bending L knee, as hands return to W-pos (ct 3).
- 2 Repeat meas 1.
- Hop lightly or lift on L, while extending arms up and fwd (ct ah); take a large step fwd onto R, bending R knee, as extended arms move down (ct 1); hold (ct 2); straighten R knee (ct 3).
- 4 Moving fwd, repeat meas 3 with opp ftwk, as arms are raised slowly into W-pos.
- Bending knees and moving bkwd away from ctr, step R, L, R (cts 1-3).
- 6 Continuing to move bkwd, repeat meas 5 with opp ftwk.
- 7-8 Repeat meas 3-4, moving bkwd away from ctr.
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.

Sequence: Introduction, Fig. I, Fig. II, Fig. II, Fig. II, Introduction, Fig. I, Fig. II, Fig. II.