

DUNAVSKO HORO

(Bulgaria)

Dunavsko horo (doo-NAHF-sko ho-RO, "Danubian horo") is one name for the dance described here; it is also known by dozens of other names, such as Pravo, Učeničesko, Svištovsko, Nestinarsko, Narodno, Turnovsko, etc. The number of different melodies it is danced to are almost infinite, and new tunes are being turned out for it continually. It is, even today, extremely popular all over Bulgaria and in Bulgarian immigrant communities in the U.S. and Canada. Most authorities agree that it originated in North Bulgaria (as did so many of the most popular "pan-Bulgarian" folk dances).

Recordings: Dozens of recordings are available to folk dancers. Two good ones are: (a) XOPO 326, "Dunavsko horo" and (b) NP 595, "Radino horo."

Meter: Conventionally notated in either 2/4 or 4/4. It is described here in 2/4.

Formation: Mixed, open circle, leader at R end. Hands are joined down at sides ("V" pos) and are often swung in and out.

Meas Pattern

Basic Pattern:

- 1 Facing almost directly to R (i.e., in LOD), step-hop fwd on R ft (cts 1,2).
- 2 Continuing in LOD, step-hop fwd on L ft (cts 1,2).
- 3 Continuing in LOD, step fwd R-L (cts 1,2).
- 4 Continuing in LOD, step R ft fwd (ct 1); hop on R ft in place, turning to face ctr and swinging L ft low across in front (ct 2).
- 5 Facing ctr, step L ft sdwd L (ct 1); close R ft beside OR behind L ft, taking wt (ct 2).
- 6 Step L ft sdwd L (ct 1); hop on L ft in place, swinging R ft low across in front (ct 2).

Note: An 8 meas version of this dance is also common, consisting of an extra 2 meas inserted between meas 4 and 5 above, during which dancers do a L-hop, R-hop in place or fwd and back.

Variations on Basic: When observing natives dancing Dunavsko horo, you will notice that they enjoy occasionally adding a few subtle variations on the above Basic Pattern. Typical are the following:

(A) Two 3's (variation on meas 1-2 of Basic)

- 1 Facing almost directly in LOD, step R ft fwd (ct 1); close L ft to R ft, taking wt (ct &); step R ft fwd again (ct 2).
- 2 Continuing in LOD, step L ft fwd (ct 1); close R ft to L ft, taking wt (ct &); step L ft fwd again (ct 2).
- 3-6 Same as meas 3-6 of Basic, OR as described in Var. C below

*Continued...*

DUNAVSKO HORO (cont)(B) Step-hop and one 3 (variation on meas 2 of Basic)

- 1 Same as meas 1 of Basic (R-hop).  
 2 Same as meas 2 of Var. A above (step L-R-L).  
 3-6 Same as meas 3-6 of Basic OR as described in Var. C below.

(C) Grapevine Schottische (variation on meas 3-4 of Basic)

- 1-2 Same as meas 1-2 of Basic OR as described in Var. A or B above.  
 3 Facing ctr, step R ft swd R (ct 1); step L ft behind R ft (ct 2).  
 4 Step R ft swd R (ct 1); hop on R ft in place, swinging L ft low across in front (ct 2).  
 5-6 Same as meas 5-6 under Basic.

Presented by Dick Crum