

Laugh and Swing to the Folk Dance

MICHAEL HERMAN'S FOLK DANCE ORCHESTRA

Dance Directions by Michael Herman, Folk Dance House, New York City
Arrangements by Walter Eriksson

SIDE 1

DJURDJEVKA (Serbia)



This "Kolo" is a little more challenging than some others, but most enjoyable. Note that while the dance appears very difficult, it is actually quite simple and is a great favorite with folk dancers.

OPENING FORMATION: A broken circle, with a leader at one end. No partners are needed. As in most Kolos, joined hands are held straight down.

Before attempting the dance itself, practice the simplified step as follows: Point right toe over left, then point right toe to the side. Keep repeating this step until familiar with it, speeding up tempo each time.

Now point left toe over right, then to the side. Repeat several times.

Now count it out as follows:

Count "one and": Point right toe over left foot.

Count "two and": Point right toe to the right side.

Count "three and": Point right toe over left foot.

Count "four and": Place right foot down beside left, with full weight on right.

Count "one and": Point left toe over right.

Count "two and": Point left toe to the left side.

Count "three and": Point left toe over right foot.

Count "four and": Place left foot down beside right, with full weight on left.

Repeat the step in this manner several times.

Note that this dance may be done using the simplified step, as above or with the traditional step, which follows:

Count "one": Instead of pointing the right toe, this time step on right toe with weight on it, crossing it over left foot.

Count "and": Step in place on left foot, raising right foot slightly off floor.

Count "two": Step to the right on right foot with weight on it, raising left foot slightly.

Count "and": Step in place on left foot.

Count "three": Cross right foot over left.

Count "and": Step in place on left foot.

Count "four and": Step to right on right foot and **HOP** ON IT.

Count "one": Cross left foot over right, with weight on left.

Count "and": Step in place on right foot.

Count "two": Step to left on left foot with weight on it.

Count "and": Step in place on right foot.

Count "three": Cross left foot over right with weight on left.

Count "and": Step in place on right foot.

Count "four and": Step to left on left foot and **HOP** ON IT.

After practicing this final step, you may start the dance.

PART 1: Do the above step, starting on the right foot; then repeat, starting on left. Once more on the right foot, then on the left. Keep steps crisp, short and precise. The circle should remain tightly pressed together.

PART 2: With hands joined, face right, and take 6 slow walking steps to the right, strutting a little. Finish with 3 quick stamps, alternating feet. Repeat to the left. Skilled dancers may replace the walking steps with a small step-hop or step-chug, 6 in each direction. This part of the dance is characterized by much trembling or shaking of the body.

NOTE: As in most Kolos, shouts accompany the dance.

