

KAČERAC

Yugoslavia (Serbia)

Notes by Dick Crum, revised 7/88.

Kačerac (kah-chair-ahts) takes its name from its place of origin, the Kačer (kah-chair) district of western Serbia in Yugoslavia. A number of variants of *Kačerac* are found in this area, some having two parts, others having only one continually repeated pattern. The variant given here has two parts.

Meter: 2/4

Recordings: The melody of this dance has become a standard favorite among Serbian musicians, who have "played around with it", as evidenced in numerous arrangements issued on Yugoslav labels such as Jugoton and RTB, now long out of print; one recording has been produced in the U.S. (on Folkraft LP-34, by the Aman Ensemble). Unfortunately, these arrangements are stylized to the point where the original dance cannot be done to them without making awkward adjustments in repeats and speeds. To my knowledge, the only "straight" recordings currently available are:

Slobodan Slović 1987 cassette, *Serbian Folk Dances*, Side B, bd. 5, *Kačerac*.
Atanas Kolarovski AK-004, *Songs and Dances of Yugoslavia*, Side A, bd. 6, *Kačerac*.

Formation: Curved line of dancers, mixed M and W, facing forward toward center. Either of two hand positions is used: "V" position (hands joined down at sides) or "Escort" position (own L hand placed over stomach or holding front edge of vest, R arm linked through the L elbow of neighbor on R, as in the dance *Šetnja*).

| MEAS | COUNT | ACTION |
|--------|-------|---|
| PART I | | |
| 1 | 1 | Facing center, shift heels together to R with bounce. |
| | & | Bounce again on both feet in this position. |
| | 2 | Still facing center, shift heels together to L (beyond original position) with bounce. |
| | & | Bounce again on both feet in this position, releasing Rft at the last moment and extending it slightly out to R in preparation for the "slice". |
| | uh- | Bringing Rft from a position out to R, put weight lightly and briefly on ball of Rft in front of Lft ("slice"). |
| 2 | 1 | Step Lft behind Rft. |
| | 2 | Step Rft beside Lft, bouncing on both feet in this position. |
| | & | Bounce again on both feet in this position. |
| 3-4 | | Repeat movements of meas 1-2 with opposite footwork and direction, i.e., shift heels together to L with bounce, etc. |
| 5-16 | | Repeat movements of meas 1-4 three more times (total 4). |

PART II

- 17-19 Still facing center, 12 small, evenly weighted steps sideward to R (4 per meas): RLRL/RLRL/RLRL.
- 20 1&2 Three steps in place : RLR. (This gives total of 15 small steps during meas 17-20.)
- 21-24 Repeat movements of meas 17-20 with opposite footwork and direction, i.e., to L beginning with Lft, etc.
- 25-32 Repeat movements of meas 17-24.

VARIATION ON PART II

Instead of the footwork described under Part II above, natives often do slight variations which are not different enough to disrupt the dancing pleasure of their neighbors. One such variation is given below.

- 17-19 Still facing center, 12 small steps sideward to R (4 per meas) done in a slight up-down style, RLRL/RLRL/RLRL, as follows:
- 1 Facing center, step R on R toe.
& Step Lft (ball of foot) across in front of Rft.
2 Step R on R toe.
& Step Lft (ball of foot) across in front of Rft.
- 1 Step R on R toe.
& Step Lft (ball of foot) across in front of Rft.
2 Step R on R toe.
& Step Lft (ball of foot) across in front of Rft.
- 1 Step R on R toe.
& Step Lft (ball of foot) across in front of Rft.
2 Step R on R toe.
& Step Lft (ball of foot) across in front of Rft.
- 20 1&2 Three steps in place : RLR. (This gives total of 15 small steps during meas 17-20.)
- 21-24 Repeat movements of meas 17-20 with opposite footwork and direction, i.e., to L beginning with L toe, etc., or do movements of meas 21-24 described under Part II above.
- 25-32 Repeat movements of meas 17-24.