

# KUKUNEŠKO HORO

Bulgaria

TRANSLATION : The name of the dance is related to the Romanian Coconește meaning "in the style of a young noble man".

ORIGIN : This dance, or maybe we should speak of the family of Kukuneško-type of dances, is very popular and wide-spread in Šopluk, Western Bulgaria and Pirin, Bulgarian-Macedonia (Kokonešta, Kukuneškata and Kukuneško Horo), in Serbia (Kokonješte, Kukunješce) and in Romania (Coconește).


This variant of the dance comes from the village of Čukurovo, nowadays called Gabra, Southwest of Sofia, Šopluk region, Bulgaria.

The described steps are actually "units" of two bars which the dancers in the villages use as "building blocks" for new variations and combinations while they are dancing. This usually happens spontaneously in ways that reflect the dancer's mood, spirit and available space. The only unspoken rule is not to step out of the two bar unit structure. Often the first dancer (Horovodec or Vodač) calls the various combinations which then are followed by the rest of the line. The different patterns usually do not have numbers but each variation is indicated with little verbal reminders such as Ajde napred (let's go forward), Na mjesto (in place), vâv strani (sideward) etc.

This construction and procedure is a major characteristic of real village dances and how they are performed in the original village settings.

SOURCE : This version of Kukuneško Horo was learned and notated by Jaap Leegwater from Pepi Iliev and Rajčo Mišov in the village of Gabra, during a field research trip in Bulgaria in 1979. The older people in the village called the dance Kukunešnja.

MUSIC : LP/Cassette "Folk Dances from Bulgaria" - volume 4  
JL 1988.02 by Jaap Leegwater  
Side A, Band 9.

METER : 2/4  or 

STYLE : - the steps are small, energetic and performed in a bouncy way  
- the shoulders are relaxed and rock gently on the rhythm of the steps, like in a Serbian kolo

FORMATION : Open or half circle. Hands are held in V-position.

INTRODUCTION : 4 measures

The first dancer usually indicates how many times each part is repeated.

MEAS      PATTERN      Part 1 "OSNOVNO" (Basic)

- 1      facing and moving in LOD,  
low leap or step on R ft (ct 1),  
low leap or step on L ft (ct 2)
- 2      flat three-step:  
step on R ft (ct 1),  
step on L ft (ct &),  
step on R ft (ct 2),  
hold (ct &)
- 3      turning face ctr, dancing in place,  
low hop or čukče on R ft, swinging L ft in an arc sdwd-behind with  
the heel slightly turned in (ct 1),  
step on L ft behind R ft (ct &),  
step on R ft in place (ct 2),  
take the wt off L ft (ct &)
- 4      low hop or čukče on R ft, swinging L ft in an arc sdwd-fwd with  
the heel slightly turned out (ct 1),  
step on L ft in front of R ft (ct &),  
step on R ft in place (ct 2),  
take the wt of L ft (ct &)
- 5-8      repeat action of meas 1-4 with opp ftwk and directions

Part 2 "VÂV STRANI" (Sideward)

- 1      facing ctr, moving sdwd R,  
step on R ft (ct 1),  
step on L ft in front of R ft (ct &),  
step on R ft (ct 2),  
step on L ft behind R ft (ct &)
- 2      repeat action of meas 1
- 3-4      repeat action of meas 3-4 of Part 1
- 5-8      repeat action of meas 1-4 with opp ftwk and directions

Part 3 "NA VÂTRE" (Go inside)

- 1-2      facing ctr, moving diag R twd ctr  
with the ftwk of meas 1-2 of Part 1
- 3      facing ctr, moving straight bkwd away from ctr,  
low hop or čukče on R ft, swinging L ft in an arc bkwd (ct &),  
step on L ft behind R heel (ct 1),  
low hop or čukče on L ft, swinging R ft in an arc bkwd (ct &),  
step on R ft behind L heel (ct 2),
- 4      repeat meas 3 starting with ct &
- 5-8      repeat action of meas 1-4 with opp ftwk and directions

} Reel-step

MEAS

PATTERN

Part 4

- 1-2 repeat action of meas 1-2 of Part 2
- 3-4 repeat action of meas 3-4 of Part 3 in place
- 5-8 repeat action of meas 1-4 with opp twk and directions

Part 5

- 1 facing ctr, moving sdwd R,  
low hop on L ft, immediately followed by a step on R ft (ct 1),  
low leap on L ft, swinging R heel behind (ct &),  
step on R ft sdwd R in 2nd-position (ct 2),  
leap onto L ft, swinging R heel behind (ct &)
- 2 step on R ft (ct 1),  
step on L ft in front of R ft (ct &),  
step on L ft on R ft (ct 2),  
hold (ct &)
- 3-4 repeat action of meas 1-2 of Part 1
- 5-8 repeat action of meas 1-4 with opp ftwk and directions

