

MOJ HATIXHE
(My Hatixhe)

Albanian dance from Kosovo

"Moj Hatixhe" is an Albanian women's dance performed today during weddings in rural and urban settings throughout Kosovo. It is a solo form which pantomimes the text sung by a female musician (Albanian or Gypsy) accompanying herself on "def" (tambourine). In its indigenous context the dance is improvised within a limited stylistic code and step pattern. To facilitate learning, the movements of each verse have been set in what would be a typical performance pattern.

Presented by Janet Reineck / Kolo Festival 1985

Source: Kiki, Fatmira and Rafeta / Prishtina, Yugoslavia, 1982

Recording: Kenge Popullore Shqiptare / Jugoton CAY-603 (cassette) / vocalist Hamide Sadiku

Rhythm: 9/8 ♩ ♩ ♩ ♩

Formation: solo

MOJ HATIXHE

Moj Hatixhe, moj n'shami t'kuqe,
Ti ngjyn nona moj flókt e kuqe. (2)

Flokt e kuqe ti shitoft zana,
A s'po t'dhimen o baba e nona? (2)

Baba, nona, du vllaznija,
Shkoj te burri o m'rrok pleqnija.

Shkoj te burri, m'rrok pleqnija,
Për kanaci m'rrokin o fmija. (2)

Për kanaci o m'rrokin o fmija,
Lypin o buken o argashtija. (2)

Lypin o buken o argashtija,
Mall i kom o teshat e mira. (2)

My Hatixhe with the red scarf,
Your mother will color your hair with henna.

Your hair will be red and charmed by the spirits,
Does it not pain you to leave your mother and father?

Father, mother, two brothers,
I go to my husband and old age comes to me.

---"
And the children hang by my apron.

---"
And the workers ask for bread.

---"
How I long to be a bride again.

MOJ HATIXHE (page 2)

MEAS	CT	FACE	LEFT FOOT	RIGHT FOOT	LEFT ARM	RIGHT ARM	BODY
1	1,2	↑	retains contact with floor	step fwd	side-low	fwd-low	slight fwd tilt
	3,4	↑	step fwd	retains contact	fwd-low	side-low	"
2	Repeat Meas 1						
3	1,2	↑	retain weight	touch toe fwd	} hands pantomime text of each verse (see below)		straighten and face
	3,4	↑	"	touch toe back			faces
4	Same as 3						
5	1,2	↘		step twd ↘			
	3,4	↘	step twd ↘				
6	1,2	↙		step twd ↙			
	3,4	↙	step twd ↙				
7	1,2	↑		small step back	"W" position flexing wrist		
	3,4		ball change				
	3,4			small step fwd			
8	1		step onto toe twd ↘, plié	retain weight	on small of back	fwd low	slight fwd tilt
	2			fall onto flat foot in place			

MOJ HATIXHE (page 3)

MEAS	CT	FACE	LEFT FOOT	RIGHT FOOT	LEFT ARM	RIGHT ARM	BODY
	3		step onto toe twd				
	4			fall onto flat foot in place			
9	1		step onto toe twd				
	2			fall onto flat foot in place			
	3		step back twd		fwd low	on small of back	straighten
	4		pause				

HAND GESTURES (for measures 3-6)

Verse 1: "Flokt e kuqe" / red hair

The bride's hair is dyed red with henna symbolizing her new status
- Gesture of hands smoothing hair

Verse 2: "A s'po t'dhimen" / doesn't it pain you

Doesn't it pain you to leave your father and mother
- Shaking one or two fingers

Verse 3: "M'rrok pleqnija" / old age comes to me

When I go to my husband, I quickly lose my youth
- Hunched over torso, hands on small of back

Verse 4: "Për kanaci" / by the apron

The children are hanging onto my aprons
- Holding out hem of apron

Verse 5: "Lypen o bukën" / asking for bread

The workers are all asking for bread
- Motion of kneading bread

Verse 6: "Teshat e mire" / fine clothes

Oh how I long to be a bride again in fine clothes
- Right palm of hand on top of left, rocking wrists