

Name of dance: Pembe Oro

Pronunciation: **pehm**-beh **oh**-roh

Place of origin: Veles, Macedonia

Source of music: Garlic Press Productions cassette (CPP-004, Side A Band 4)

Learned from: Steve Kotansky, 1990

About the dance: The name of the dance *Pembe* means 'rose' or 'pink' in Turkish. The town of Veles where this dance is from was a commercial hub during Ottoman times because of its river traffic, so Ottoman cultural influence there was strong. The dance belongs to the *krsteno* ('crossing') dances that are common in northern *brzyak* Macedonia, and in its simple versions is considered a basic part of Macedonian gypsy dance repertoire. The version described here has a considerable amount of ornamentation, and is described with men's styling, i.e. with higher leg lifts than women would do. Women would do the dance with more freedom of movement in the hips.

Rhythm: 2/4

Formation: Open circle, hands joined in 'W' position.

Direction	Measure	Step
		<u>Basic Step:</u>
→	1-2	Facing and moving to the R, take four smooth walking steps beginning with L: step L (ct. 1), step R (ct. 2), step L (ct. 1), step R (ct. 2).
⊥	3	Step on L across in front of R (ct. 1), turning to face center, step back on R in place (ct. 2).
	4	Small hop or lift on R in place while lifting L knee to hip level (ct. 1), step on L next to R (ct. 2).
	5-6	Repeat Measures 3-4 with reverse footwork.
	7-8	Repeat Measures 3-4.
	9-10	Repeat Measures 5-6.
		<u>Variation 1 (toe touches):</u>
→	1-3	Repeat Measures 1-3 of the Basic Step.
⊥	4	Small hop or lift on R in place while lifting L knee to hip level (ct. 1), step on L next to R, twisting hips and R knee toward L (ct. 2).
	5	Straightening hips and R knee to aim toward center, touch R toe in front of L foot (ct. 1), pause (ct. 2).
	6-7	Repeat Measures 4-5 with reverse footwork.
	8-9	Repeat Measures 4-5.
	10	Small hop or lift on L in place while lifting R knee to hip level (ct. 1), step or leap low on R next to L (ct. 2).
		<u>Variation 2 (travelling leaps):</u>
→	1	Facing and moving to the R, leap low onto L (ct. 1), step R (ct. 2).
	2	Repeat Measure 1.
⊥	3-10	Repeat Measures 3-10 of Basic Step or of Variation 1.
		<u>Variation 3 (travelling turns):</u>
→	1	Facing and moving to the R, leap low onto L while spinning CW a half or more of the way around (ct. 1), step R, completing a full CW turn to again face R (ct. 2).
	2	Repeat Measure 1.

Direction	Measure	Step
⊥	3-10	<u>Variation 3 (continued):</u> Repeat Measures 3-10 of Basic Step or of Variation 1.
		<u>Variation 4 (travelling quick steps):</u>
→	1	Facing and moving to the R, step quickly onto L (ct. 'uh'), step quickly onto R (ct. 1), step or leap very low onto L (ct. 2).
⊥	2	Repeat Measure 1 with reverse footwork but in the same direction.
	3-10	Repeat Measures 3-10 of Basic Step or of Variation 1.
<u>Variation 5 (knee lifts and dips):</u>		
<i>Note: This variation must begin with the R foot free to move, so the final step on R of any variation that comes before it must be without weight.</i>		
→	1	Facing and moving to the R, lift R knee to hip level (ct. 1), step on R (ct. 2).
⊥	2	Repeat Measure 1 with reverse footwork but moving in the same direction.
	3	Repeat Measure 1.
	4	Turning to face center, lift L knee toward center to hip level (ct. 1), dip or flex on standing R leg (ct. 2).
	5	Lift L knee and standing R heel (ct. 1), step on L next to R (ct. 2).
	6-7	Repeat Measures 4-5 with reverse footwork but also facing center.
	8-9	Repeat Measures 4-5.
	10	Lift R knee toward center to hip level (ct. 1), dip or flex on standing L leg (ct. 2).
<u>Variation 6 (hop step-step travels):</u>		
<i>Note: As with Variation 5, this variation begins with the R foot free.</i>		
→	1	Facing and moving to the R, lift R knee while hopping on L and throwing R foot slightly L across in front of L knee (ct. 1), step on R (ct. &), step on L (ct. 2).
⊥	2	Repeat Measure 1.
	3	Lift R knee to hip level (ct. 1), step on R next to L (ct. 2).
	4-10	Repeat Measures 4-10 of Variation 5.

*dance notes by Erik Bendix*