PETRUNINO HORO

Bulgarian dance presented by Mitch Allen.



Petrunino horo (peh-TROO-nee-no ho-RO), also known as Petruna, Petruni-ta, etc., is one of the standard folk dances associated with the Shopes (šopi), an ethnic subgroup living in the broad area around Sofia in western Bulgaria. Its title means "dance named for Petruna [girl's name]" and derives from the first line of a folk song whose melody is often used to accompany the dance (Petruno, pile šareno...). Rhythmically and in terms of steps, Petrunino horo is related to the more famous Eleno mome, and their melodies are often interchanged or combined.

Several versions of Petrunino horo are known in the U.S. The one presented here is a modified form of an elaborate version learned by Dick Crum from Vasil Kinev and Neofit Oprikov in the 1950's. It was taught to the presenter by Jim Singer in Santa Barbara in 1969.

Recordings: (a) XOPO 322, Petrunino horo; (b) Balkan Arts MK 6G 1A, Petrenino horo; (c) XOPO LP II, Petruno pile šareno; (d) NP 595, Shopska horovodna.

Rhythm & Meter: The dance is in a "slow-quick-quick-quick-slow" rhythm notated here in 7/8 meter (5 dancer's beats):

Formation: Open circle, belt hold with L arm over R. Leader calls changes in step at his/her whim.

MEAS

ACTION

Basic Step

Facing diag to R, hop on Lft, placing R heel against L (for men) or against L shin (women). The R leg is kept in the plane of the body, forming something resembling a figure "4" (1); running step with Rft diag to R (2); running step with Lft diag to R (3); another running step with Rft (4); another running step with Lft (5).

Repeat until leader calls a change of step.

(continued)

PETRUNINO HORO (concluded)

MEAS ACTION

Variation 1

- 1 Basic Step
- 2 Hop on Lft, twisting to face L, extending R leg diag across L leg (1); hop on Lft (2,3) hop on Lft (4); step on Rft, swinging L leg around in front (5).
- 3 Repeat movements of meas 2 with reverse footwork and facing R.

Variation 2

- 1 Basic Step
- 2 Small jump onto Rft, touching L toe next to R toe, L toe pointed inward (1); hop on Rft, touching L heel next to R toe, pointing L toe forward (2,3); step on Lft to L (4); step Rft behind Lft (5).
- 3 Repeat movements of meas 2 with reverse footwork.

Variation 3 (Slaps)

- 1 Basic Step
- Jump slightly to R onto Rft (1); with weight on Rft, extend Lft forward and slap with flat Lft (2,3); step on Lft to L (4); step on Rft behind Lft (5).
- 3 Repeat movements of meas 2 to L with reverse footwork.

Variation 4 (Hop-steps)

- 1 Basic Step
- Jump to R on Rft, extending Lft across and in front of Rft slightly off floor (1); step to L on Lft (2); step Rft behind Lft (3); step Lft to L (4); step Rft behind Lft (5).
- 3 Hop on Rft placing Lft behind R and taking weight (1&); hop on Lft placing Rft behind Lft and taking weight (2,3); hop on Rft placing Lft behind Rft and taking weight (4,5&) (Note: Step is syncopated).

Variation 5 (Twists)

- 1 Basic Step
- Jump onto Rft facing diag to L, L leg bent with Lft back (1); hop on Rft in same pose (2,3); hop on Rft lifting bent L leg slightly (4); stamp with Lft next to Rft but taking no weight (5).
- 3 Jump onto Lft facing diag R and repeat movements of meas 2 with reverse footwork.

Variation 6 (Stamps)

- 1 Basic Step
- Step onto Rft toward center, facing center (1); stamp Lft next to Rft taking no weight (&); step Lft next to Rft (2); stamp Rft next to Lft taking no weight (3); step directly back on Rft (4); step with Lft to close to Rft (5).

Note: There are no set number of times each variation is done. The leader is responsible for calling changes. Each variation begins with one Basic Step.