

~~Opšaj Dir~~ - Pokupski Svatovski Drmeš (Croatia)

Opšaj Dir (AWP-shy DEER-ee) and Pokupski Svatovski Drmeš (PAW-koop-skee SVAH-tawf-skee DER-mesh) are from the area of Pokuplje in Croatia and represent the most common forms of drmeš found in Croatia. Nena Šokčić presented the dances at the 1986 University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp.

The dances were published in the December 1975 issue of Let's Dance magazine following a presentation at Mendocino Folklore Camp by Nena. Because of some variations in the two presentations, they are being republished in their most recent form.

RECORD: Aman 106 Side A/1 and 2.

2/4 meter

FORMATION: Circle of dancers in back basket hold: hands joined behind adjacent dancers at shldr blade level. If a W is between 2 M her arms are on the outside (to show off the beautiful sleeves of her blouse), otherwise, the L arm is usually over neighbors R. Keep shldr open to ctr of circle. Use upper arm muscle to hold circle's circumference steady.

STEPS and Bounce: With wt on both ft, raise heels (upbeat), lower heels (downbeat), bending knees.
STYLING:

Fig I and II are done smoothly, keeping head level. Fig III becomes almost a run.
The Drmeš steps (Fig IV) are small and staccato.

MUSIC 2/4

PATTERN

Measures

16 meas INTRODUCTION. No action. Beg dance with vocal.

I. SLOW CIRCLE TO LEFT

1 Step on R across L (ct 1); step in RLOD on L (ct 2).

2-16 Repeat meas 1 fifteen times.

II. FASTER CIRCLE TO LEFT (music accelerates)

1 Step on R across L, bending R knee a little (ct 1); step in RLOD on ball of L ft, straightening knee (ct 2).

2-16 Repeat meas 1 fifteen times.

III. FASTEST CIRCLE TO LEFT (music accelerates)

1 Step on R across L, bending R knee deeper (ct 1); low leap in RLOD onto ball of L ft (ct 2).

2-16 Repeat meas 1 fifteen times.

IV. DRMEŠ

1 With ft pointed twd ctr, step on R ft in place, sliding L ft fwd a little (ct 1); bring L ft beside R and bounce twice (cts 2,&).

2-16 Repeat meas 1, alternating ftwk, fifteen times.

REPEAT DANCE FROM BEGINNING AND REPEAT AGAIN THROUGH FIG III.

POKUPSKI SVATOVSKI DRMEŠ

4 meas INTRODUCTION. No action.

I. DRMEŠ

1-12 Repeat Drmeš step as described in Fig IV of Opšaj Dirí.

II. FORWARD AND BACK

1 Step fwd on R (ct 1); hop on R (ct 2).

2 Bending knees, step fwd on L (ct 1); straighten knees (ct &); hop on L (ct 2). There is a down-up motion in this meas.

3 Small running steps bkwd R,L (cts 1,2).

4 Tiny step to R on R ft bringing L ft close to R (ct 1); repeat with opp ftwk for ct 2. Do not twist hips as ft are brought close together, although the heels may move slightly to R and to L.

5-16 Repeat meas 1-4 three times (4 in all).

REPEAT DANCE FROM BEGINNING (DRMEŠ) 4 MORE TIMES, BUT ON EACH REPEAT FIG I WILL BE DANCED FOR 16 meas.

NOTE: Either dance may be done alone, but because the drmeš follows Opšaj Dirí on the record and they use the same drmeš step, they are often linked together.

Description written October 1986.