

RACHENITSA NA SRYATA

(BULGARIA)

Rachenitsa Na Sryata (rah-cheh-nee'-tsa nah sree-ah-tah) was introduced by Michel Cartier at the 1961 University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp. Mr. Cartier learned this version of the dance in Bulgaria in 1957 and again in 1959. The dance is performed during the wedding festivities when the families of the bride and groom meet. "Na sryata" means "to meet" and this determines the character of the dance — the families meet, part, and meet again. Many different steps are possible. The ones in this description are as Mr. Cartier presented the dance.

MUSIC: Xopo LP-1-A, band 6, "Pred Tsenkini-Rachenitza".

Folk Dance LP - MH 109, band 4, "Rachenitsa from Briagovo".

FORMATION: Two lines of dancers, 8ft apart, facing each other. Preferable to alternate M and W, but not mandatory. Dancers grasp belt of adjacent dancer, R hand over, L hand under. End dancers carry handkerchief and twirl it as the spirit moves them.

STEPS AND STYLING: The ftwork is precise and controlled, posture erect. The dance is swift moving, always flowing in feeling. The 7/16 rhythm is broken into 3 cts per meas: quick (cts 1,2); quick (cts 3,4); slow (cts 5,6,7). For purposes of this description the meas cts will be given as 1,2,3 (quick, quick, slow).

Basic Step: Leap fwd onto ball of R ft (ct 1); close L to R, on ball of ft (ct 2); leap fwd onto ball of R ft, bending L knee sharply and bringing L ft up in back (ct 3). The vertical motion of the step is emphasized more than the horizontal motion, although the step is used to move fwd and bwd during the dance.

Chukche: Raise and lower the heel of a supporting ft sharply.

Pas de Basque: Step bwd on R (ct 1); cross L in front of R, taking wt (ct 2); step R in place (ct 3). Repeat beginning L, continuing to move bwd.

MUSIC 7/16

PATTERN

Measures

1-24 INTRODUCTION. Dancers flex knees, feeling rhythm.

I. BASIC STEP

1-3 Beginning R, move fwd with 3 Basic Steps.

4 Turning L shoulder twd ctr, step twd ctr on L, outside of ft leading (ct 1); hold (ct 2); Chukche (ct 3) and shout "hey!"

5-7 Beginning R, move bwd with 3 Basic Steps.

8 Turning L shoulder away from ctr, step away from ctr on L (ct 1); hold (ct 2); Chukche (ct 3) and shout "hey!"

9-16 Repeat action of meas 1-8, (Fig I).

II. TOE POINT

1 With R ft extended slightly twd ctr, toe pointed fwd, hop on L twice (cts 1,2); step fwd on R (ct 3).

2 Repeat action of meas 1 (Fig II), reversing ft work.

3-4 Repeat action meas 1,2, (Fig II). Lines move fwd during these 4 meas.

5-8 Beginning R, move bwd with 4 Basic Steps.

9-16 Repeat action of meas 1-8, (Fig II),

III. SWEEP

- 1 R pointed to R, hop on L (ct 1); R pointed fwd, hop on L (ct 2); step R across in front of L (ct 3). During this step, the R ft is moved from R to L, with a sweeping motion.
- 2 Repeat action of meas 1, (Fig III), reversing ft work.
- 3-4 Repeat action of meas 1-2, (Fig III), Lines move fwd during these 4 meas.
- 5-8 Beginning R, move bwd with 4 Basic Steps.
- 9-16 Repeat action of meas 1-8, (Fig III).

IV. MOTHER-IN-LAW

- 1 Turn 1/8 L so R shoulder leads, hop on L, lifting R with bent knee (ct 1); step twd ctr on R with a stamp (ct 2); close L to R, taking wt (ct 3).
- 2-4 Repeat action of meas 1, (Fig IV), 3 more times, advancing twd opp line.
- 5-8 Face ctr, do 4 Pas de Basques, moving bwd, beginning R.
- 9-16 Repeat action of meas 1-8, (Fig IV).

V. JUMP AND HOOK

- 1 Jump lightly on both ft, R crossed in front of L (ct 1); in same pos bounce lightly twice (cts 2,3).
- 2 Repeat action of meas 1, (Fig V), reversing ft work.
- 3-4 Repeat action of meas 1-2, (Fig V).
- 5 Hop L, lifting R fwd, knee extended (ct 1); step on R, adjacent to and on the L side of L ft (ct 2); lift L ft bwd, bending knee, just to free it (ct 3).
- 6 Lift L ft in front, knee bent (cts 1,2); replace L ft exactly where it was (behind and to R side of R ft) (ct 3). NOTE: The action in meas 5 and 6 is smooth and rapid.
- 7 With R ft crossed behind L, jump lightly bwd 3 times (cts 1,2,3).
- 8 With L ft crossed behind R, jump lightly bwd 3 times (cts 1,2,3).
- 9-16 Repeat action of meas 1-8, (Fig V).

VI. BASIC AND CROSS STEP

- 1-8 Beginning R, move bwd with 8 very small Basic Steps, so lines are again about 8 ft apart.
 - 9 Jump into pos with R ft crossed in front of L, wt equally distributed (ct 1); hold (ct 2); jump with ft apart (ct 3).
 - 10 Repeat action of meas 1, (Fig VI), reversing ft work.
 - 11 Repeat action of meas 1, (Fig VI), exactly.
 - 12 With both ft together chug fwd (ct 1); jump with ft apart (ct 2); bring ft together sharply (ct 3).
- Repeat dance from beginning. On Xopo recording dance is done twice through and ends after the first 16 meas of the dance the third time.