

SARAJEVKA

Notes by Dick Crum for *ŽVILA TAMBURA* '93

One of the pre-World War I kolos, and a steady standard in the American repertory, *Sarajevka* ('kolo named for the town of Sarajevo') was regularly done in the 1950's. It was usually played at least once in an average afternoon or evening of dancing.

Sarajevka has three parts, A, B and C, each with its own music. Parts A and C are in a fast tempo, while music B slows down to a walking pace. Dancers particularly enjoyed the slow B music, to which many of them sang the following lyrics:

: <i>Ja sam Jovicu šarala, varala,</i> <i>šećera mu davala. :</i>	I teased and cajoled Jovica, I gave him sugar.
: <i>Nisam davala što sam morala,</i> <i>već što sam ga volela. :</i>	I didn't give what I should have; instead I loved him.

These lyrics are those of a folk song, *Ja sam Jovicu*, known in a number of variants in the U.S. *bećar* repertory. It was recorded by Milan Verni's tamburitza orchestra in about 1945 [Standard F-12002-A].

Most old-time musicians knew the traditional words and often sang them as they played. As printed by music publisher Rudolf Crnković in his published score for "Sarajevka - Bosansko kolo":

Music A

: <i>Savilo se kolo, u kolu lepi Jovo</i> <i>poigra sladko veselo. :</i>	The kolo is circling, and in it handsome Jovo is dancing, sweetly and merrily.
---	---

Music B

: <i>Skokni lagano, curo mladano,</i> <i>bit će dva, tri poljubca. :</i>	Hop lightly, pretty young girl, there'll be two or three kisses.
---	---

Music C

: <i>Četir, pet, bit će i deset,</i> <i>ljubi mene, lepi Jovo za navek. :</i>	Four, five...there'll even be ten, Love me, handsome Jovo, forever.
--	--

DESCRIPTION OF DANCE

Formation Open circle or chain of dancers, mixed male and female, hands joined down at sides ("V" position).

Meter 2/4

Part 1 (Music A) – Fast

Facing slightly right of center and moving to right (counterclockwise around):

- Meas 1 ct 1 Step Rft forward in this direction.
 ct 2 Hop on Rft forward in this direction.
- Meas 2 ct 1 Step Lft forward in this direction.
 ct 2 Hop on Lft forward in this direction, turning to face center.
- Meas 3 ct 1 Step Rft sideward to R.
 ct 2 Step Lft behind Rft.
- Meas 4 ct 1 Step Rft sideward R.
 ct & Step Lft across in front of Rft.
 ct 2 Step Rft in place behind Lft.
- Meas 5 ct 1 Step Lft sideward L.
 ct & Step Rft across in front of Lft.
 ct 2 Step Lft in place behind Rft.
- Meas 6 ct 1 Step Rft sideward R.
 ct & Step Lft across in front of Rft.
 ct 2 Step Rft in place behind Lft, turning to face slightly L of center.
- Meas 7 ct 1 Facing slightly L of center, step Lft forward in this direction.
 ct 2 Step Rft forward in this direction (i.e., to L).
- Meas 8 ct 1 Step Lft forward in this direction.
 ct 2 Pause, turning to face slightly R of center.

Meas 9-16 Repeat movements of measures 1-8.

Part 2 (Music B) – Slow

Note: The first of the lyrics often sung by the dancers is given in the second column of the description below.

Facing slightly right of center and moving to right (counterclockwise around):

- Meas 17 *Ja* ct 1 Step Rft forward in this direction.
 sam ct 2 Pause; or very slight bounce on Rft as Lft moves forward low in preparation to step in this direction.

- Meas 18 *Jovi-* ct 1 Step Lft forward in this direction.
cu ct 2 Pause; or very slight bounce on Lft as Rft moves forward
low in preparation to step; begin turning to face center.
- Meas 19 *šara-* ct 1 Having finished turn to face center, step Rft sideward to R.
la, ct 2 Step Lft behind Rft.
- Meas 20 *vara-* ct 1 Step Rft sideward R.
la, ct 2 Close Lft beside Rft (without taking weight on Lft); or
point Lft in front of R toe.
- Meas 21 *še-* ct 1 Step Lft sideward L.
će- ct 2 Close Rft beside Lft (without taking weight on Rft); or
point Rft in front of L toe.
- Meas 22 *ra mu* ct 1 Step Rft sideward R.
dava- ct 2 Close Lft beside Rft (without taking weight on Lft); or
point Lft in front of R toe; turn to face L of center.
- Meas 23 *la* ct 1 Facing L of center, step Lft forward in this direction (i.e.,
to L).
- ct 2 Step Rft forward in this direction (i.e., to L).
- Meas 24 - ct 1 Step Lft forward in this direction.
-. ct 2 Pause, turning to face slightly R of center.
- Meas 25-32 Repeat movements (and, if singing, the words) of measures 17-24.

Part 3 (Music C) – Fast

Music resumes tempo of Part 1; steps are identical to those of Part 1.