TAHIR BEGA

Albanian women's dance from Kosovo

"Tahir Bega" is performed by unmarried women at weddings in the Opoja region of Kosovo. Opoja is an ethnographic region of 21 villages in southwest Kosovo bordering Albania in a valley of the Sharr mountains north of Macedonia. Perhaps more than any area of Kosovo, Opoja has preserved a strong tradition of women's song and dance. While Tahir Bega has recently been lost from the dance tradition of some villages, in others it is still a part of a sequence of 5 dances accompanied by song and tambourine. The dance is composed of a basic crossing pattern in an open-circle, CCW, alternated with a sung verse during which the women join together in a tight closed circle. The instrumental accompaniment is tambourine or zurna.

Presented by Janet Reineck / Kolo Festival 1985

Source: The women of the villages Bellobrad, Buqe and Zhur

Recording: Field recording from Zhur

Rhythm: 7/8 ♩ ♩ ♩

Formation: open circle moving CCW / "W" hand-hold

Style: An up and down bounce is downplayed here.- there is rather a horizontal forward and back feeling

MEAS	CT	FACE	LEFT FOOT	RIGHT FOOT	LEFT ARM	RIGHT ARM	BODY
1	1 ♪	|		momentary step	"W" hold		
	2,3 ♩		step in back of right foot				
	4,5 ♩			pause (slight lift)			
	6,7 ♩			step in place (next to left)			
2	1 ♪		momentary step in front of right foot				
	2,3 ♩			small step side-right			
	4,5 ♩		pause (slight lift)				
	6,7 ♩		step in place (next to right foot)				

This entire sequence may be repeated 2 times (for 6 measures in all) or 5 times (for 12 measures in all).

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Tahir Bega

Be - ge   o   me   Ko - po - ro - o - o - ne,

Ta - hir

Thuj mi,   zo - gos mo - re, gji po - ne.

po - ne.

gji po

po ...

Tahir Bega

Tahir Bega o me koporane,
Thuj mi, zogos mori gji po bone.*

Thuj mi zogos mori gji po bone,
Jam tuj kepe e ni gjemadane.

Jam tuj kepe e ni gjemadane,
Jam tuj vuj o sumla rrogjone.

Tahir Bega, oh with your handsome jacket,
Tell me, my bird, what you are doing.

Tell me my bird what you are doing,
I am sewing a vest.

I am sewing a vest,
And putting on buttons of cowhorn.

*The second line of each stanza is repeated twice.

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