

ČERKESKATA
(Bulgaria)

The name of this dance, "the Circassian one", indicates influences from abroad. The Circassians are a tribe from the Caucasus Mountains who settled in Bulgaria after 1864. They were known as skilful horsemen and Cerkeskata's basic step reflects the hoofbeats of their horses.

Čerkesko Horo and Čerkeskata are particularly popular in the district of the town of Veliko Turnovo, Northern Bulgaria (Severniaško).

This version was learned by Jaap Leegwater in September 1982 from the local folklore group in the village of Pavel.

Pronunciation:

Record: Balkanton BHA 11134 Side B, Band 4 9/8 meter

Rhythm: 9/8: 1-2, 1-2, 1-2, 1-2-3 counted here as:
1 &, 2 &, 3 &, 4 & ah

Formation: Line or open circle. Belt hold or "V" pos.

Meas

Pattern

8 meas Introduction

PART 1 FORWARD-BACKWARD

- 1 Facing and moving diag R fwd, three walking steps R,L,R (cts 1,2,3); close L ft next to R, no wt (ct 4).
2 Repeat meas 1, moving diag L bkwd, beg with L ft.
3-4 Repeat meas 1-2, but move diag L fwd.
5-8 Facing ctr and moving straight fwd and bkwd, repeat ftwk of meas 1-2 two times.

PART 2. IN PLACE

- 1 Step on R ft in place (ct 1); tap L heel beside R toes (ct &); step on L ft in place (ct 2); tap R heel beside L toes (ct &); step on R ft in place (ct 3); brush L ft slightly sdwd to the front (ct &); step on L in front of R (ct 4); step on R in place, raising L knee (ct &); tap L heel in front of R (ct ah).
2 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk.
3-4 Repeat meas 1-2.

N.B. transition from Part 2 to Part 3: change the last tap on ct "ah" of meas 4 to "hold".

PART 3. SIDEWARD - I

- 1 Facing ctr, step on R ft in front of L (ct 1); fall on L ft in place (ct &); step on R ft diag R fwd (ct 2); fall on L ft in place (ct &); step on R ft in front of L (ct 3); fall on L ft in place (ct &); step on R ft diag R fwd (ct &); slightly raise L leg diag R (ct ah).
2 A small jump on both ft together in place, knees slightly bent (ct 1); leap onto R ft, swinging L heel behind (ct 2); step on L sdwd L (ct 3); step on R ft behind L (ct &); step

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on L sdwd L (ct 4); cross and fall on R ft in front of L (ct &), swing L ft sdwd L, close to the floor, to the front (ct ah).

3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk and direction.

5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.

PART 4 SIDEWARD - II

1 Leap onto R ft sdwd R (ct 1); cross and step on L ft in front of R (ct &); step on R ft in place (ct 2); step on L sdwd L (ct &); cross and step on R ft in front of L (ct 3); step on L sdwd L (ct &); cross and step on R ft in front of L (ct 4); step on L sdwd L, raising R knee (ct &); hold (ct ah).

2 Step on R ft in place (ct 1); tap L heel beside R toes (ct &); step on L ft in place (ct 2); tap R heel beside L toes (ct &); fall on R ft in place, swinging L ft sdwd L, close to the floor, to the front (ct 3); step on L ft in front of R (ct 4); fall on R ft raising L knee (ct &); hold (ct ah).

3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk and direction.

5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.

Sequence of dance:

Introduction - 8 meas

Part 1	} two times
Part 2	
Part 3	
Part 2	
Part 4	

Part 1

Part 2

N.B. Finish the dance by changing Part 2, meas 4, cts 3-4 to: leap onto L ft in place, raising R knee (ct 3); stamp R ft next to L ft (ct 4).

Description by Jaap Leegwater © 1982

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