





CIGANSKOTO
(Bulgaria)

Ciganskoto (tsee-GAHN-skoh-toh, "Gypsy horo") was, up until very recently, one of the favorite dances of the Bulgarian/Macedonian ethnic communities in the U. S. I first learned it in 1951 from Mrs. Diana Jordanoff, one of the finest dancers among the older immigrants in West Mifflin, PA. Later I danced it many times at ethnic picnics and večerinki (evening dance parties) in Pennsylvania and Ohio, often to the playing of the late Kime Nanchoff and his band. (Nanchoff's Ciganskoto is preserved on the recording below.)

U. S. and Canadian folk dancers will recognize the dance as a variant of the well-known Eleno mome. Both dances belong to a family of Bulgarian horos that originated in northern Bulgaria and spread to all parts of that country and Macedonia in the period between World Wars I and II.

As played by Nanchoff, Ciganskoto may be notated in 7/8 meter, each measure having four dancer's beats in a slow-slow-quick-slow pattern:

Dancer's beats (counts)	1	2	3	4
Rhythm	S	S	Q	S
7/8 notation				

Music: XOPO 313 (45 rpm), "Ciganskoto"; (incidentally, the flip side is mislabelled "Skudrinka"; it is actually the Macedonian "Skopska crnogorka.") 7/8 meter.

Formation: Open circle or line, integrated (M and W), hands joined down at sides. Leader and end dancer have free hand on hip or small of back, or leader may flourish handkerchief.

MeasPattern

NOTE: All "steps" below are in a running style.

- 1 Facing slightly R of ctr, step R ft fwd in this direction (ct 1); step L ft fwd in this direction (ct 2); facing ctr, step R ft R (ct 3); step L ft behind R ft (ct 4).
- 2 Repeat action of meas 1, continuing to move to R.
- 3 Facing ctr, step R ft sdwd R (ct 1); hop on R ft in place (ct 2); step L ft sdwd L (ct 3); step R ft behind L ft (ct 4).
- 4 Facing slightly L of ctr, step L ft fwd in this direction (ct 1); step R ft fwd in this direction (ct 2); facing ctr, step L ft L (ct 3); step R ft behind L ft (ct 4).
- 5 Facing ctr, step L ft sdwd L (ct 1); hop on L ft in place (ct 2); step R ft sdwd R (ct 3); step L ft behind R ft (ct 4).

Start above sequence with any measure in the music and repeat whole pattern until music ends.

Presented by Dick Crum