

Čuš Merdžan

(Bulgaria)

Mixed line or open circle dance from the village of Dragomirovo, Svištov region in Severnjaško or Northern Bulgaria. The dance is typical for the Dunabe plain area, reflecting the openness and spaciousness of the territory in its jumpy and running dance style. Čuš Merdžan belongs to the so-called Dunavsko type of dances. Different variants from other villages along the Danube river are known as Dunavsko Horo, Svištovsko Horo, and Pravo Severnjaško Horo. The meaning of the name of this version is not known—it could be a Turkish name. Krassimir Petrov—dance researcher, instructor, and director of the state Choreographer's School in Sofia—taught this dance at the Summer Dance Seminar in Bulgaria in August 1995.

Pronunciation: CHOOSH MEHRD-juhn

Cassette: Folk dances from Bulgaria, UOP Folk Dance Camp 2000.02, Side A/9 2/4 meter
Folk Dances from Bulgaria - JL1996.01,

Formation: Half or open circle, hands joined in V-pos.

Styling: *Severnjaški* or North Bulgarian: small and bouncy steps, sharp knee liftings, jumpy character, energetic arm swings, every first ct of the meas is stressed.

There is no full synchronization between the dance and musical phrases. The dance pattern consists of a 2 + 3 and 4 + 4 meas structure. The musical accompaniment is made up out of 4 + 4 meas phrases.

Meas

Pattern

4 meas

INTRODUCTION. No action.

DANCE

- 1 Facing ctr and moving to L (RLOD), step with emphasis on R in front of L and begin swinging arms fwd (ct 1); hop on R, lifting L knee in front and swinging arms fwd (ct 2).
- 2 Small step bkwd on L to L, lifting R ft off the floor, bending body slightly fwd at waist, and swinging arms down by sides (ct 1); hop on L, lifting R knee in front, bending body slightly further fwd, and swinging arms bkwd low (ct 2).
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2.
- 5 Repeat meas 1, but step twd ctr (ct 1); and raise arms to W-pos (ct 2).
- 6 Moving diag bkwd to R, small leap onto L (ct 1); small leap onto R (ct 2).
- 7 Small leap onto L (ct 1); hop on L, lifting R knee in front, arms down, bkwd low (ct 2).
- 8 Moving in LOD, small leap onto R, arms fwd low (ct 1); small leap onto L, arms bkwd low (ct 2).
- 9 Small leap onto R, arms fwd low (ct 1); small leap onto L, arms bkwd low (ct 2).
- 10 Facing ctr, small step on R, arms fwd low (ct 1); hop on R, swinging L leg across in front of R leg, bending R knee, arms fwd low (ct 2).
- 11 Small step on L, arms bkwd low (ct 1); hop on L, swinging R leg across in front of L leg, bending L knee (ct 2).
- 12-13 Repeat meas 10-11.

Repeat the entire dance from the beginning until music ends.

Dance description by Jaap Leegwater, © 1995

Presented by Jaap Leegwater