

Dràma

(Bulgaria)

From the Pètrich area, Pirin Mountains, Dràma is one of the very popular men's dances from the villages in the West Pirin Mountains. They call it "Heavy dance"- "Tezhko horo." It means a difficult, slow and special style of dancing. Only the best dancers can do it. They demonstrate their virtuosity and strength. Usually the "Heavy dances" have two parts—slow and fast—very often in different rhythms. Dràma also has slow and fast parts.

Pronunciation:

CD: IBLD # 9 - 2002

Rhythm Slow Part: 5/8+5/8+5/8+7/8 mixed meter for each meas, counted 1, &, 2, &, 3, &, 4, &, &;
Fast Part: 17/16 meter.

Formation: Open circle, the hands are joined in W-pos. Face LOD (R side in the circle).

Meas

Pattern

INTRODUCTION. Melody without rhythm.

SLOW PART 5/8+5/8+5/8+7/8

FIGURE I

- 1 Facing LOD, low leap fwd onto R (ct 1); bouncing step fwd on L (ct &); bouncing step fwd on R (ct 2); bounce on R while bending L knee in back (ct &); bouncing step fwd on L (ct 3); bend R knee in front, turning to face ctr (ct &); bounce on L while R ft goes slowly from a high curve to kick fwd (ct 4); bounce on L while R continues going to R side (ct &); step on R to R (ct &).
- 2 Facing ctr, high curve fwd with L ft (ct 1); hold (ct &); bouncing step bkwd on L (ct 2); bend R sole in front of L ft while slightly bending body fwd and bouncing on L (ct &); bouncing step fwd on R (ct 3); bend L leg with sole facing L and knee to the R (ct &); bounce on R while L sole goes slowly fwd (ct 4); bounce on R while L sole goes slowly to R side (ct &); sliding step fwd on L to R side (ct &).

FIGURE II

- 1 Repeat Fig I, meas 1.
- 2 Facing ctr, Bend R ft and put L sole behind R knee (ct 1); hold (ct &); repeat Fig I, meas 2, cts 2-4 (cts 2-4).

FIGURE III

- 1 Repeat Fig I, meas 1.
- 2 Facing ctr, high curve fwd with L ft (ct 1); kneel on L, keeping R ft in place (ct 2); kneel on R next to L (ct 3); step fwd on L (ct 4); stand and step on R next to L (ct &).

Drama—continued

FAST PART 17/16FIGURE I

- 1 Facing LOD, low leap fwd onto R (ct 1); step fwd on L (ct &); low leap fwd onto R while kicking bkwd with L heel (ct 2); low leap fwd onto L (ct 3); lift on L, turning to face ctr (ct 4); low leap bkwd onto R (ct &).
- 2 Facing ctr, low leap bkwd onto L (ct 1); step on R next to L (ct &); low leap bkwd onto L while hooking R sole in front of L ft (ct 2); step fwd on R in LOD (ct 3); lift on R (ct 4); low leap fwd onto L in LOD (ct &).

ONLY FOR THE LEADER !!!!

Instead of meas 2, the leader sometimes:

- 2 Squat down (ct 1); straighten, keeping wt on L (ct 2); step on R in place while starting to turn CCW (c3); lift on R (ct 4); low leap onto L in place while finishing the turn facing LOD.

Sequence: Slow Part: Fig 1 x 2; Fig II x 2; Fig I x 2; Fig II x 1; Fig III x 1
 Fast Part: 2 meas drum only, no action; alternate Fig I and Fig II until the end of the melody; from time to time the leader can dance his figure.

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