

Gajda/Mališevsko

(Pirin, Bulgaria)

Gajda means "a bag pipe." Mališevsko— "from the village of Mališevo." These are two separate dances almost always done one after the other by the villagers within a large area of Pirin Macedonia. Both dances Gajda and Mališevsko, in different variations, are popular throughout Greek Macedonia and the Republic of Macedonia as well. Often they are performed in various combinations with other line dances. In Bulgaria, Mališevsko is also called Ograzdensko and Četvorka. The name of Gajda comes most likely from the fact that originally that dance has been done on a bag pipe accompaniment. The zurna has replaced it later on, when Bulgaria experienced some Turkish influence during the 500 years of Turkish hegemony. Pirin, Macedonia is the last Bulgarian province to gain independence in the beginning of this century, some 40 years later than mainland Bulgaria. That is why the sound of zurna is still very common in the regional folklore. Source: Atanas Sinanski - a local researcher and choreographer from the town of Sandanski.

Pronunciation: GUYH-dah / MAH-lih-shehv-skoh.

Cassette: Folk Dances from Bulgaria - NK 1995.03.

Rhythm: Gajda is in 5/8 meter, counted 1, 2 or 1, 2 &.
Mališevsko is in 2/4 meter, counted 1, 2 or 1 &, 2 &.

Formation: Open circle, hands held in V-position.

Styling: Pirin Macedonian style includes: light steps, constant bounces with knees and ankles mainly. The leader and the last dancer (who is the leader of the tale of the dance) twirl a specially tight handkerchiefs and improvise within the dance pattern using movements with all the parts of the body. The energy level of all the dancers depends on the personal choice, mood, physical condition, social status and, last but not least, dance skills.

Meas

Pattern

1-16 INTRODUCTION. No action.

FIGURE I. GAJDA

- 1 Facing LOD, step fwd on R (ct 1); kick L heel bkwd, bouncing R knee (ct 2).
- 2 Step fwd on L (ct 1); bounce L knee (ct 2).
- 3 Step fwd on R (ct 1); bounce R knee (ct 2).
- 4 Sharply turning to face RLOD, pivot in place R ft without lifting it from the floor in bent knee pos and tapping R heel, simultaneously kicking L heel bkwd (ct 1); bounce R knee (ct 2).
- 5 Turning to face LOD, pivot in place R ft without lifting it from the floor in bent knee pos and tapping R heel, simultaneously extending L ft fwd low (ct 1); step fwd on L (ct 2).
- 6 Moving LOD, step fwd on R (ct 1); step fwd on L (ct 2).
- 7 Facing ctr, step sdwd on R to R (ct 1); bounce on R (ct 2).
- 8 Lift L knee in front of R (ct 1); bounce on R (ct 2).
- 9 Facing RLOD, step fwd on L (ct 1); kick R heel bkwd, bouncing on L (ct 2).
- 10 Moving RLOD, step fwd on R (ct 1); bounce on R (ct 2).

Gajda/Mališevsko—continued

- 11 Facing ctr, step sdwd L on L (ct 1); bounce on L (ct 2).
- 12 Lift R knee in front of L (ct 1); bounce on L (ct 2).
- 13 Step bkwd on R (ct 1); bounce on R (ct 2).
- 14 Lift L knee in front of R (ct 1); bounce on R (ct 2).
- 15 Step bkwd on L (ct 1); bounce on L (ct 2).
- 16 Lift R knee in front of L (ct 1); bounce on L (ct 2).

FIGURE II. GAJDA

- 1-11 Repeat Fig I, meas 1-11.
- 12 Facing ctr, extend R leg fwd low, bending L knee (ct 1); slowly straighten L knee while lifting R knee and simultaneously bringing R heel up, around and behind L ft (ct 2).
- 13 Step bkwd on R, bending both knees (ct 1, 2).
- 14 Extend L leg fwd low, bending R knee (ct 1); slowly straighten R knee while lifting L knee and simultaneously bringing L heel up, around and behind R ft (ct 2).
- 15 Step bkwd on L, bending both knees (ct 1, 2).
- 16 Lift R knee in front of L (ct 1); bounce on L (ct 2).

FIGURE III MALIŠEVSKO

- 1 Facing LOD, step fwd on R (ct 1, 2).
- 2 Step fwd on L, bending L knee (ct 1, 2).
- 3 Small leap fwd onto R (ct 1); small leap fwd onto L (ct 2).
- 4 Small leap fwd onto R, bending R knee (ct 1, 2).
- 5 Small leap fwd onto L (ct 1); small leap fwd onto R (ct 2).
- 6 Small leap fwd onto L (ct 1, 2).
- 7 Facing ctr, leap sdwd onto R to R (ct 1); leap onto L in front of R (ct 2).
- 8 Leap onto R behind L (ct 1, 2).
- 9 Facing RLOD, step fwd on L (ct 1, 2).
- 10 Step fwd on R (ct 1, 2).
- 11 Facing LOD, leap onto L in front of R (ct 1); leap onto R behind L (ct 2).
- 12 Leap onto L in front of R (ct 1, 2).
- 13 Facing RLOD, leap onto R in front of L (ct 1); leap onto L behind R (ct 2).
- 14 Leap onto R in front of l (ct 1, 2).
- 15 Turning to face LOD, small hop in place on R, bending R knee, simultaneously extending L leg fwd low (ct 1, 2).
- 16 Facing LOD, leap in place onto L, simultaneously kicking R heel bkwd (ct 1, 2).

SUGGESTED SEQUENCE:

Fig I three times.

Fig II four times.

Fig III 11 times.

The dance ends on the 12th repetition of Fig III on meas 8.

Suggested ending on meas 8:

Facing ctr, leap in place onto R, simultaneously lifting L knee in front of R (ct 1, 2).

Presented by Nina Kavardjikova

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