

KUKUNEŠKO HORO
(Bulgaria)

The name of the dance is related to the Romanian Coconește meaning "in the style of a young noble man." This dance, or maybe we should speak of the family of Kukuneško-type of dances, is very popular and wide-spread in Šopluk, Western Bulgaria and Pirin, Bulgarian-Macedonia (Kokonešta, Kukuneškata and Kukuneško Horo), in Serbia (Kokonješte, Kukunješce) and in Romania (Coconește).

This variant of the dance comes from the village of Čukurovo, nowadays called Gabra, Southwest of Sofia, Šopluk region, Bulgaria.

The described steps are actually "units" of two bars which the dancers in the villages use as "building blocks" for new variations and combinations while they are dancing. This usually happens spontaneously in ways that reflect the dancer's mood, spirit and available space. The only unspoken rule is not to step out of the two bar unit structure. Often the first dancer (Horovodec or Vodač) calls the various combinations which then are followed by the rest of the line. The different patterns usually do not have numbers but each variation is indicated with little verbal reminders such as Ajde napred (let's go forward), Na mjesto (in place), vâv strani (sideward) etc.

This construction and procedure is a major characteristic of real village dances and how they are performed in the original village settings.

This version of Kukuneško Horo was learned and notated by Jaap Leegwater from Pepi Iliev and Rajčo Mišov in the village of Gabra, during a field research trip in Bulgaria in 1979. The older people in the village called the dance Kukunešnja.

Pronunciation: koo-koo-NESH-koh hoh-ROH

Music: LP/Cassette "Folk Dances from Bulgaria" vol 4.
JL 1988.02 Side A/9 2/4 meter

Steps: Čukče: Lift heel of supporting ft on the upbeat and lower it on the beat.

Style: The steps are small, energetic and performed in a bouncy way. The shldr's are relaxed and rock gently to the rhythm of the steps, like in a Serbian kolo.

Formation: Open or half circle, Hands are held in "V" pos.

Meas

Pattern

4 meas INTRODUCTION.

The first dancer usually indicates how many times each part is repeated.

KUKUNEŠKO HORO (cont'd)Part 1 "OSNOVNO" (Basic)

- 1 Facing and moving in LOD, low leap or step on R ft (ct 1);
low leap or step on L ft (ct 2).
- 2 Flat three-step: step on R ft (ct 1); step on L ft (ct &);
step on R ft (ct 2); hold (ct &).
- 3 Turning to face ctr, dancing in place, low hop or čukče
on R ft, swinging L ft in an arc sdwd-behind with the
heel slightly turned in (ct 1); step on L ft behind R
ft (ct &); step on R ft in place (ct 2); take the wt
off L ft (ct &).
- 4 Low hop or čukče on R ft, swinging L ft in an arc sdwd-
fwd with the heel slightly turned out (ct 1); step on
L ft in front of R (ct &); step on R ft in place (ct 2);
take the wt off L ft (ct &).
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 with opp ftwk and direction.

Part 2 "VAV STRANI" (Sideward)

- 1 Facing ctr, moving sdwd R, step on R ft (ct 1); step
on L ft in front of R ft (ct &); step on R ft (ct 2)
step on L ft behind R ft (ct &).
- 2 Repeat meas 1.
- 3-4 Repeat meas 3-4 of Part 1.
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 with opp ftwk and direction.

Part 3 "NA VATRE" (Go inside)

- 1-2 Facing ctr, moving diag R twd ctr, repeat ftwk of meas
1-2 of Part 1.
- 3 Facing ctr, moving straight bkwd away from ctr,
low hop or čukče on R ft, swinging L ft in an
arc bkwd (ct &); step on L ft behind R heel (ct 1); Reel
low hop or čukče on L ft, swinging R ft in an Step
arc bkwd (ct &); step on R ft behind L heel (ct 2)
- 4 Repeat meas 3 starting with ct &.
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 with opp ftwk and direction.

Part 4

- 1-2 Repeat meas 1-2 of Part 2.
- 3-4 Repeat meas 3-4 of Part 3 in place.
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 with opp ftwk and direction.

Part 5

- 1 Facing ctr, moving sdwd R, low hop on L ft, immediately
followed by a step on R ft (ct 1); low leap onto L ft,
swinging R heel behind (ct &); step on R ft sdwd R in
2nd pos (ct 2); leap onto L ft, swinging R heel behind (ct &).
- 2 Step on R ft (ct 1); step on L ft in front of R ft (ct &);
step on R ft (ct 2); hold (ct &).
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 of Part 1.
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 with opp ftwk and direction.

Notes by Jaap Leegwater

Presented by Jaap Leegwater