

Lazarica

(Dobrudža, Bulgaria)

Lazarica is a girl, participating in the ritual on the Day of Saint Lazar (the weekend before Easter) in Dobrudža, North Eastern Bulgaria. This is also the name of a spring maidens' custom, celebrating the waking up of the nature after the winter and of the young woman inside the girl's body. After being Lazarka, girl is allowed to get married. Associated with that are the costumes with bride's elements, the content of the songs, and the special guessing for the future husband the Lazarki do. Presented here is a line dance for health and luck, performed in the yard of a village house. Source: *Tancovo Izkustvo*, vol. 9/10 1972.

Pronunciation: LAH-zah-rih-tsah.

Cassette: Folk Dances from Bulgaria - NK 1994.02 / B13.
Any other tune with the same style, meter, structure and tempo can be used too.

Rhythm: 7/8 (ct 1, 2, 3).

Formation: Open circle, hands joined in front basket, L over R.

Styling: Dobrudžan: Slightly knee-bend position, bouncy steps on whole feet, gently touching the floor.

Meas

Pattern

1-8 INTRODUCTION. No action.

FIGURE I BASIC

- 1 Facing ctr, step on R ft sdwd R (cts 1,2); step on L ft next to R ft (ct 3).
- 2 Step on R ft sdwd R (cts 1,2); step on L ft without weight next to R ft (ct 3).
- 3 Step on L ft in front of R ft (ct 1,2); step on R ft without weight next to L ft (ct 3).
- 4 Step on R ft bkwd (ct 1,2); step on L ft without weight next to R ft (ct 3).
- 5 Step on L ft sdwd l (ct 1,2); step on R ft without weight next to L ft (ct 3).
- 6-20 Repeat meas 1-5 three times.
- 21-23 Repeat meas 1-3.
- 24 Step on R ft bkwd (ct 1,2); step on L ft next to R ft (ct 3).

FIGURE II RAČENIČA STEP

- 1 Facing in LOD, small leap onto R ft fwd (ct 1); small leap onto L ft next to R ft (ct 2); small leap onto R ft, bending R knee (ct 3).
- 2 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk.
- 3-4 Facing RLOD, repeat meas 1-2 bkwd.
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.

Lazarica—continued

FIGURE III GENTLE STEP

- 1 Facing ctr, step on R ft without weight fwd diagonally to the right, bending both knees (ct 1); bounce on both ft, without changing the posture (ct 2); put weight on R ft, bouncing (ct 3).
- 2 Step on L ft in front of R ft (ct 1); bounce on L ft, slightly lifting R ft (ct 2); touch the ball of R ft next to L toes (ct 3).
- 3 Step on R ft bkwd diag to the left (cts 1-2); step on L ft sdwd L (ct 3).
- 4 Facing in LOD, fall onto R ft fwd (ct 1); small leap onto L ft fwd (ct 2); small leap onto R ft fwd, bending R knee (ct 3).
- 5 Repeat meas 4 with opp ftwk.
- 6 Repeat meas 4.
- 7 Facing ctr, step on L ft fwd (cts 1,2); stamp on R ft next to L ft (ct 3).
- 8 Facing RLOD and moving in LOD, step on R ft bkwd (cts 1,2); step on L ft next to R ft (ct 3).

SUGGESTED SEQUENCE:

Figure I six times. Meas 1-2 of Figure I. Figure II. Figure III.

Repeat the same.

Figure I six times. Figure III two times.

Oj. Velo. VeloHey you, VeloOj. Velo. Velo, hubava Velo, 2

Ja daj si, Velo, palamarkata,
Palamarkata, Velo, saltamarkata.

Hey you beautiful Velo.
Give me your swaphook.
And your jacket with fur edges.

Oj. Velo. Velo, hubava Velo,
Palamarkata, Velo, saltamarkata. 2

Hey you, beautiful Velo.
Your swaphook and your jacket.

Sutrina rano, rano da staniš, 2
Na niva da ideš, žetva da ženiš,
Žetva da ženiš, Velo, snopi da vrâzvaš.

You have to stand up early in the morning.
To go to field to reap.
And to bind sheaves.

Oj. Velo. Velo, hubava Velo,
Žetva da ženiš, Velo, snopi da vrâzvaš. 2

Hey you, beautiful Velo.
To reap and bind sheaves.

Oj. Enjo, Enjo, kaskandži Enjo, 2
Idi si, Enjo, vârvi si, Enjo,
Ni palamarka davam, ni saltamarka.

Hey you, Enjo.
Go home.
I don't give my swaphook and jacket to anybody.

Oj. Enjo, Enjo, kaskandži Enjo,
Ni palamarka davam, ni saltamarka. 2

Hey you, Enjo.
I don't give my swaphook and jacket to anybody.

Presented by Nina Kavardjikova
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Song words translation by Nina Kavardjikova © 1994.