

Oj, Devojče

(Pirin, Bulgaria)

“Oj, Devojce” or “Oh, Girl!” is a slow Pravo (or Lesnoto) type dance from Pirin, the most “Macedonian” part of (SW) Bulgaria. It has a very special style and a separate step for the refrain.

Pronunciation: OY deh-VOY-chay

Music: “Oj, Devojce,” *Balkan and Beyond*, Band 7.

Rhythm: 7/8 (3+2+2), counted “SLOW-quick-quick” or “ONE-two-three.”

Formation: Open circle, leader to the R. High handhold (W-pos).

Styling: Very solemn, formal, ceremonious, and controlled.

Meas

Pattern

INTRODUCTION. Wait out the instrumental refrain and begin on the sung verse.

I. SLOW PRAVO (vocal)

- 1 Facing and moving diag to the R, step on R ft (ct 1); lift R heel slightly from floor (ct 2); step on L ft across in front of R (ct 3):
- 2 Turning to face slightly L of ctr, step on R ft slightly behind L ft, bending knees and keeping wt on both ft (cts 1-2); raise L ft by straightening R knee (ct 3).
- 3 Repeat meas 2 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 4-15 Repeat meas 1-3 four more times. (Five times in all.)
- 16 Lower R ft by bending L knee (ct 1); relift R ft by straightening L knee again (ct 2), hold (ct 3).

II. BICYCLE LEGS (instrumental)

- 1 Repeat Fig I, meas 1, lifting L leg more than usual (bicycle).
- 2 Continuing to face and move to the R, step on R ft, bringing the L ft straight fwd, low to the floor (ct 1); lift R heel from floor as L ft makes a large circle up and back, as if pedaling a bicycle backwards (ct 2); as the L leg continues its circle, bring the R heel down sharply and point the L ft fwd, low to the floor (ct 2); hold (ct 3).
- 3 Lift R heel from floor and replace it sharply as the L knee is bent and straightened again sharply (ct 1); returning to face ctr, bring L ft quickly to a position directly behind the R ankle (ct 2); hold (ct 3).
- 4 Repeat Fig I, meas 3.
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.

Dance notes by Lee Otterholt

Presented by Lee Otterholt