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PRESKAČANKA  
 (Bulgaria)

Learned by Yves Moreau, Fall 1971, from village dance group in Gecovo, Razgrad District, N.E. Bulgaria. Preskačanka belongs to the family of the well-known Pajduško Horo danced throughout Bulgaria and Macedonia. This version is very popular among the "kapanci" people. The "Kapanci" are said to be direct descendants of the early Bulgarian settlers ("protobulgarians") who came from the Volga River area with their leader, Asparoukh, in the 5th century A.D. The term "Kapanci" is derived from "na kapki" referring to the special "dotted" embroidery stitch found on their costumes. The "Kapanci" live primarily in about 20 distinct villages situated around the towns of Razgrad, Šumen, and Târgovište in N.E. Bulgaria. They have many special dances, songs, and rituals. The "Kapanci" wedding is especially colorful. Preskačanka was presented by Y. Moreau at the 1972 Folk Dance Camp.

Pronunciation: prehs-KAH-chahn-kah

Music: Worldtone WT-YM-003 A. 5/16 meter: 1-2, 1-2-3. Counted here as: 1, 2.

Formation: Short, mixed lines. Hands joined down at sides. Fact ctr, wt on L.

Style: Kapanski styling is sort of a mixture of quick North Bulgarian movements with that special touch of Dobrudjan-like heaviness. There is therefore a slight knee bend during the dance. The arm movements are firm.

Meas

Pattern

No Introduction music: dance may start at beginning of any musical phrase.

I. NA MJASTO (In Place) (nah mee-YAHS-toh)

- 1 Step on R in front of L, simultaneously arms swing fwd about parallel to floor (ct 1). Shift wt back on L ft in place, arms start swinging bkwd (ct 2).
- 2 Step bkwd on R, arms swing bkwd (ct 1). Step on L in place, arms start swinging fwd (ct 2).
- 3 Repeat action of meas 1, exactly.
- 4 Small hop on L ft, arms swing bkwd (ct 1). Small step on R slightly to R, arms start swinging fwd (ct 2).
- 5-8 Repeat action of meas 1-4, reversing ftwk.

II. NAOKOLO (Around) (nah-OH-koh-loh)

- 1 Small hop on L in place, arms swing fwd (ct 1). Step fwd on R, arms start swinging bkwd (ct 2).

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PRESKACANKA (continued)

- 2 Small leap fwd onto L ft next to R, arms swing bkwd (ct 1). Small step fwd on R, arms start swinging fwd (ct 2).
- 3-8 Repeat action of meas 1-2, Fig II, alternating ftwk. Describe a CW oval floor pattern, i.e., move fwd, to R, bkwd and to L, ending in original pos. (2 meas for each direction.)

III. NAPRED - NAZAD (Forward and Back) (nah-PRED nah-ZAHD)

- 1 Step on R across in front of L, simultaneously hands come up to "W" pos, slightly fwd, but forearms point to L (ct 1). Shift wt back on L ft in place, forearms remain pointing to L (ct 2).
- 2 Step to R with R, forearms now point to R (ct 1). Small step fwd on L, forearms remain pointing to R (ct 2).
- 3-4 Repeat action of meas 1-2, Fig III, exactly.
- 5 Small hop on L ft in place, hands start moving fwd and upward (ct 1). Step on R in front of L, hands move downward (ct 2).  
NOTE: During meas 5-16 hands and arms swing rhythmically bkwd and fwd. The arms go bkwd as far as comfortable. On the fwd movement the arms come up until they are parallel to the floor. On ct 1 of meas 7,9,11,13, and 15 the arms are fwd. On ct 1 of meas 8, 10,12,14 and 16 the arms are bkwd. On ct 2 of meas 5-16 arms are in motion.
- 6 Shift wt back on L ft in place (ct 1). Shift wt onto R ft in place (ct 2).
- 7-8 Repeat action of meas 5-6, Fig III, reversing ftwk.
- 9 Small hop on L ft in place (ct 1). Step bkwd on R (ct 2).
- 10 Still moving bkwd, repeat action of meas 9, Fig III, reversing ftwk.
- 11-12 Repeat action of meas 9-10, Fig III.
- 13 Step on R across in front of L (ct 1). Shift wt back onto L (ct 2).
- 14 Small hop on L ft in place (ct 1). Small step on R to R (ct 2).
- 15-16 Repeat action of meas 13-14, Fig III, reversing ftwk.

NOTE: Leader calls each figure at will, preferably in the above sequence.

Presented by Yves Moreau