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SOPSKI LAZARKI  
 (Bulgaria)

"Lazarki" is the name given to young unmarried women who go from house to house in the village, singing and dancing for good health and happiness on St. Lazarus Day around Easter-time. This dance is based on traditional steps from the Sofia region. Learned from Radi Radev, Sofia, 1969.

Pronunciation: SHOHP-skee LAH-zahr-kee

Cassette: YM-UOP-89 7/16 meter

Rhythm: 7/16: 1-2,1-2,1-2-3; Q-Q-S; counted here as 1,2,3.

Formation: Closed circle, hands joined down at sides ("V" pos).  
Face ctr, wt on L ft.

Style: Posture erect, small bouncy steps, demeanor is reserved and proud.

Meas

Pattern

There is a short musical intro with accordian and drum.

I. SLOW PATTERN

- 1 Step on R to R keeping wt on L (ct 1); small bounce with ft apart (ct 2); cross with L in front of R with slight flexion (ct 3).
- 2 Repeat meas 1 but on ct 3 cross L behind R without flexion.
- 3 Close R to L, and do 3 small bounces in place (cts 1,2,3).
- 4-6 Repeat meas 1-3.
- 7 Step fwd to ctr on R, bending R knee and with arms starting to swing up and fwd (ct 1); continue flexion and arms fwd and up (ct 2); arms reach shldr height, R knee is straight and L leg comes up behind R calf (ct 3).
- 8 Step back on L, bending L knee and with arms starting to swing back and down (ct 1); continue flexion and arms down and back (ct 2); arms reach down pos at sides, L knee is straight and R knee is up somewhat (ct 3).
- 9-24 Repeat meas 1-8, two more times.

II. FAST PATTERN

- 1-4 Let go of hand hold and rest both hands on hips with fingers fwd, face LOD and do 4 meas of running 1,2,3s beg with R. Face ctr on 4th meas.
- 5 Facing ctr, small hop on L, bringing R leg around and fwd (ct 1); step on R in front of L (ct 2); step on L in place (ct 3).
- 6 Small hop on L, bringing R leg out to R and back (ct 1); step on R behind L (ct 2); step on L in place (ct 3).
- 7-8 Repeat meas 5-6.
- 9 Three small running steps twd ctr (cts 1,2,3).

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SOPSKI LAZARKI (Cont'd)

- 10 Small jump onto both ft together in place with marked knee flexion (ct 1); hold (ct 2); release wt onto L, straightening knee simultaneously flicking R ft up behind (ct 3);
- 11-12 Repeat meas 9-10 but with running steps bkwd.
- 13-16 Repeat meas 9-12.

Repeat dance from beginning. Dance alternates with slow and fast parts 3 times and then continues only with fast part until end of music.

Song Words -Igrali sa kuklici, Lazare (2x)  
 Po srebãrni ulici, Lazare

Laletata padaja, Lazare (2x)  
 Ergeni gi zbiraja, Lazare

Ergeni gi zbiraja, Lazare (2x)  
 Na glavi gi kiãeja, Lazare

Rough Translation: The dolls are dancing  
 Through the silver streets  
 The tulips are falling  
 The boys pick them up and  
 decorate the girls' heads

Description by Yves Moreau

Presented by Yves Moreau