

VARNENSKO HORO  
(Bulgaria - Dobrudža)

These typical steps were observed by Yves Moreau in Varna region and from demonstration by Todor Pavlov, Varna, in 1978.

Pronunciation: VAHR-nen-skoh ho-ROH

Record: Dances of Bulgaria DB-8101, Side B/1.

Meter: 9/16: counted here as 2-2-2-3, or 1-2-3-4, or quick, quick, quick, SLOW

Formation: Mixed or segregated lines, hands joined at shldr height "W" pos. Wt is on L; face slightly R of ctr.

Style: Dances of the Varna region are closely related to the Dobrudžan type with some oriental features in some of the movements. Varnensko is sometimes called "Gagaužko." The type is also related to a Dajčovo (slow tempo) with ct 1 having more stress than usual. Knees are slightly bent, upper body erect. Arm movements are proud and strong.

MeasPattern

Introduction: 8 meas - no action.

FIGURE I. Traveling Step

- 1 Small quick hop on L (ct uh); step on R (ct 1); hold (ct 2). small sharp leap onto L simultaneously picking up R ft behind (ct 3); step on R (ct 4).
- 2 Repeat meas 1 with same direction but starting with hop on R.
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2.
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 once more.

Arm motions for Traveling Step.

- 1-2 Arms are up at "W" pos, shldr height.
- 3 Extend hands in an arc upward and fwd, straightening elbows as arms swing downward and bkwd as far back as comfortable.
- 4 Arms swing fwd and up back to "W" pos.

FIGURE II. Men's variation

- 1 Facing ctr, wt on L, step onto R with large step, keep L ft on ground, marked flexion (ct 1); hold (cts 2,3); still leaning to R, bring L ft up behind R calf (ct 4).
- 2 Repeat meas 1 with opp direction and ftwk.
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2.
- 5 Step on R in place, leaning slightly bkwd and looking to L (ct 1); hold (cts 2,3,4).
- 6 Hold (cts 1,2,3,4).
- 7 Turning to face R, step onto R with marked rolling flexion downward (ct 1); hold (ct 2); step on L facing ctr (ct 3); step on R facing ctr (ct 4).
- 8 Repeat meas 7 with opp direction and ftwk.
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.

VARNENSKO HORO (Continued)FIGURE II. Men's variation: arm movements.

- 1 Hands meet in front of body and arms extend straight up and out to sides and back in front with a clap (ct 1); hold (ct 2); smaller "circle" in front with both arms and clap (ct 3); hold (ct 4).
- 2-4 Repeat meas 1 three more times.
- 5 Extend L arm to L and diag fwd, palm outstretched and simultaneously R arm is bent behind head, R hand next to R ear, clap on cts 1 and 3. When not clapping, hands are back to stretched pos.
- 6 Repeat meas 5.
- 7-8 Hands are behind back, bent elbows.

FIGURE II. Women's variation.

- 1 Facing ctr, step onto R slightly fwd with light flexion (ct 1); hold (ct 2); small step on L in place (ct 3); small step on R in place (ct 4).
- 2 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk.
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2.
- 5-6 Repeat meas 7-8, Figure II, Men's step.
- 7-8 Repeat meas 5-6.
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.

FIGURE II. Women's variation: arm movements.

- 1 Arms describe circular motion to side L then upward and down to R, arms slightly bent, fingers snapping on cts 1,3,4, then moving up again.
- 2-4 Repeat meas 1 three more times.
- 5 "Pushing" motion with palms of both hands (palms up) down at sides along upper thigh (ct 1); pause (ct 2); palms down, fingers closed, two push-pull motions (cts 3,4).
- 6 Repeat meas 5 but facing L.
- 7-8 Repeat meas 5-6.

Presented by Yves Moreau