DRMEŠ FOR THREE
(Croatia)

Drmeš (durr' – mesh) is the national dance of Croatia and it has many variations. It can be danced in couples, trios, quadrilles, or in larger groups. Every locale seems to have its own music for the dance and the steps vary from village to village. The Translation of Drmeš is "shake" and that is just what the step is designed to produce. There are many variations of this step, some very intricate, but all have the same rhythm and produce the same bounce. This "Drmeš for Three" was presented at the University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp by John Filcich in 1954 and again in 1962.

MUSIC:　　　　　Record: Jugoton J6002A "Turopoljski Drmeš" (8 repeats); Balkan 506 "Drmeš" (9 repeats); Folk Dancer MH 1012 "Dremš" (9 repeats).

FORMATION:　　Trios of one M and two W, at random on the floor. W stand side by side facing M. M R hand holds L hand of W to his R at her L hip; his L hand holds R hand of W to his L at her R hip. W place inside hands on M nearer shoulder.

Dance is done almost in place.

STEPS AND
STYLING:　　　Basic Drmeš Step; (4 meas). Meas 1: step R (ct 1), hop R (almost a chug) (ct 2); (meas 2), step L (ct 1), hop L - almost a chug (ct 2); (meas 3) step R (ct 1), step L (ct 2); (meas 4) repeat action of meas 1. Next step begins with L. The dancers are proud, the body erect and there is a continual bounce or shake. The ft are hardly raised off the floor at all - the dance can be done "in the shoes".

Vrtanje (verr-tahn-yah): Vrtanje means "turning". As described for a CW turn, step R across in front of L, with accent and slight knee bend (ct 1), step L slightly to L of R heel (ct 2), continuing in the same rhythm for successive repetitions. For a CCW turn reverse the footwork.

Modified Shoulder-waist Position: M L hand on upper R arm of W, W R hand on upper L arm of M: M R hand on W waist, W L on M R shoulder; R hips adjacent for CW turn, L hips adjacent for CCW turn.

MUSIC 2/4	*PATTERN*

Measures

I. DRMEŠ

In trio as described above.

A　1-16　　All beginning R, dance 4 drmes steps in place.

M may switch the pos of the W at his will - i.e. pass the W from one side to another, , indicating by a lead at the waist which W is to pass closer to him. W do not turn.

II. VRTANJE

B　17-22　　All release hold. M choose one W and, in modified shoulder-waist pos, turn CW with 6 Vrtanje Steps (one per meas).

23-24　　Step R L R in place (do not stamp), changing to L hips adjacent (cts 1, 2, 1), hold (ct 2). M may change ptr at this time. W who is without ptr, place hands on own hips and dance Drmeš Step in place.

25-30　　Cpl repeat 6 Vrtanje Steps, turning CW, while other W continues Drmeš Step in place.

31-32　　Step L R L (cts 1, 2, 1), hold (ct 2) and trio assume original pos to repeat action of Fig I, meas 1-16.

Note: While one W is dancing with M, the other W continues Drmeš Step in place (no turns), hands on hips. The M may dance with whichever W he chooses for either of the 8 meas phrases of B music, or he may dance the entire 16 meas with one W. The M being a good sport, will choose the other W next time. The free W pretends nonchalance - her turn is coming!

VARIATION FOR VRTANJE

B 17-32

Release Drmeš pos, all three join hands behind each others backs, W arms over M. Cross R ft over L to begin Vrtanje Step, revolving CW for 8 meas; then cross L over R to revolve CCW for 8 meas. Or the circle of three may revolve CW for 16 meas.

SUGGESTED CHOREOGRAPHY:

4-7 trios in a circle, W back to ctr. During A music all Drmes as in Fig I. During B music all L hand W go to ctr of the circle, take back-basket hold and Vrtanje CW for 8 meas, then CCW for 8 meas. Meanwhile M turns with R hand W with Vrtanje Step and leaves her at his L at the end of B music. For a finale, on the last repeat of B music the trios may form one large circle and, with front basket hold (R hand over, L hand under) all Vrtanje CW for 8 meas and CCW for 8 meas; or use the final B music to circle CW and exit, breaking the circle at a predesignated place.