

HRVACKO

(Croatia)

Also known as "Tanac po Hrvacki" (Dance a la Croatian), this couple dance dates back to the mid-nineteenth century and was the most popular dance in the Primorje and Gorski Kotar area. The title simply means "Croatian". It was a free-style dance, couples dancing various figures and improvising. This choreography was learned by John Filcich from Alenka Juretić, director of the folklore group "Zvir" in Jelenje in the Rijeka area. Originally danced to the native two oboe-like "sopile" it is now danced to an accordion or "button box". John finally found this dance in 2005 after many years of searching, having heard about it from the original immigrants and reference to the dance in books. At one time Hrvacko was danced in all parts of Croatia. It is believed to be the forerunner of today's *drmes*.

Measure

FIGURE 1 Preparation

- 1-24 Men seek their partners and take them by their R hand (M, L) and all circle the dance area, ending in one circle with W left of M.

FIGURE II Solo and couple turn

- 1-8 With W on left of M, each dance 8 small polka steps in place.
- 9-16 M helps W to position in front of him and with a "rida" step couple turns 8 meas. clockwise. M hands on W shoulder blades, W hands over M shoulders.
- 17-24 Same as meas. 9-16 but reversing footwork and direction to ccw.

FIGURE III Backwards, forwards, W twirls cw and ccw

- 1-4 With hands on hips, palms out, each dances 4 polka steps backwards.
- 5-8 Couple returns to place with 4 polka steps forward. At 4th meas. each bends R arm at elbow and with open hand give a lively clap, hitting each other's hand.
- 9-16 M raises R arm, index finger pointing downwards, W takes finger and dances four meas with a modified buzz steps clockwise. M. follows her also cw circling once to place.
- 17-24 W twirls in opposite direction, M dances in place "admiring".

FIGURE IV W circles M, couple turn cw and ccw

- 1-8 W circles M with 8 polka steps passing L shoulders. M in place claps hands and stamps lightly in rhythm 8 times.
- 9-24 Couple turns cw and ccw as in meas.9-24 in Fig. I End with W on L of M.

FIGURE V Big Circle (Velo Kolo)

- 1-8 With 8 polka steps couples get into position to form a circle. At this point W is on L of M. Back-hold position: M arms held at W waist; W arms higher, near shlds.
- 9-24 With similar rida step, circle turns cw

FIGURE VI Small Circle (Malo Kolo)

- 1-8 As in Fig. V, meas. 1-8 couples form small circles of 2 couples.
- 9-24 Couples vigorously dance cw using the "step-hop-step" (R,hop,L) as in Kriči Kriči Tiček and Drmeš iz Zdencine.

REPEAT ALL OF ABOVE TO END OF MUSIC, OMITTING FIGURE I, THE PREPARATION. Note that meas. 1-8 are the "A" part of the music, 9-24, the "B" part.

VOCAL:

Women:

Obrni me! Obrni!	<i>Turn me, turn me,</i>
Kod i kolo na vodi!	<i>Like ripples in the water</i>

Men:

Kako ču te obrnut	<i>How can I turn you,</i>
Kad se ne daš ni maknut?	<i>When you won't even budge?</i>

Dialect "Hrvacko" is pronounced: hurr-votz'-koh; variant is: Hrvasko, hurr-voss'-koh, the accent in both cases on the second syllable. Gramatically it is Hrvatsko, hurr'-vot-sko, accent on the first syllable. Word is the adjectival form of the country name, Hrvatska, in dialect in this area, Hrvacka or Hrvaska. In all cases the r is rolled.

Notes by John Filcich

Presented by John Filcich