

Metlaš

(Pokuplje, Croatia)

Metlaš, or “Broom Dance,” is often a way of performing another dance in the village repertoire. In one village in Pukuplje, Metlaš was a way of performing the common Drmeš of that village. Therefore, for the description of the step, refer to the “couples” figures as described for Draganički Drmeš. This type of dance may be found in other parts of Croatia, Slovenia, and much of western Europe.

Pronunciation:

Cassette: Barry Glass Special tape – Stockton 1996 2/4 meter

Formation: Couples are scattered about the dance space as for the normal drmeš.

PATTERN

One M has a broom (which may be decorated with flowers or ribbons) for a partner. He may actually execute the steps of the drmeš and the couple-turn with his broom or simply travel around the space “searching for a victim.” At the end of the couple turn, he “throws” down the broom by one of the couples and “cuts in,” leaving that M without a partner. This is the signal that all the men must seek out a new partner. One, or course, will be left to dance with the broom. The whole process begins again.

Presented by Barry Glass