

Moj Dragane

(Lika, Croatia)

Moj Dragane translates as “my sweetheart.” The plains of the Lika region of Croatia are divided from the coastal area by the Velebit mountains. Lika is part of the Dinaric dance zone of Croatia. The dances reflect a strong influence of the Adriatic Zone. This dance is a maiden’s walking dance, usually done before Ličko kolo. Musical accompaniment is the dangubica, a kind of tambura. Željko Jergan did research in the region from 1981 to 1983.

Pronunciation: MOY draH-GAH-neh

Music: Tape: “Let’s Dance” by Skitnice, Side B/3
CD: “A Road Less Traveled” by Skitnice, Band 14.

Rhythm: 6/8 meter counted: 1-2-3 4-5-6
1 2

Formation: Traditionally the dance beg with an open circle, then closes as dance continues. For recreational purposes, dance is done only as a closed circle. In a circle, hands are joined in V-pos. When dancing individually, W have back of wrists on hips; M tuck thumbs into belt or have hands on hips like W.

Styling: Heavy, earthy walking steps with a slight swagger/sway of the hips during turns.
Swagger/sway: When putting wt onto a ft, the hips move over the weighted ft while the upper body stays in pos. This movement is subtle and should *not* be overdone.

Meas

Pattern

4 meas

INTRODUCTION. No action.

FIGURE I: WALK IN RLOD (Instrumental)

1-2 Facing and moving to L (RLOD), walk L, R, L fwd (cts 1,2,1); step (rock) bkwd on R (ct 2).
3-8 Repeat meas 1-2 three times (4 times in all).

FIGURE II (Vocal)

1 Facing and moving to L (RLOD), walk fwd L, R (cts 1,2).
2 Step fwd on L in RLOD as R lifts low in front of L, turning to face ctr (ct 1); step on R beside L as L lifts low across R, turning to face RLOD (ct 2).
3-4 Releasing hands, turn R once in place walking L, R, L, R with swagger/sway (cts 1,2,1,2).
5-8 Rejoin hands and repeat meas 1-4, except do not rejoin hands at end.

FIGURE III

1 With hands on hips, repeat Fig II, meas 1 (walk L, R).
2 Step fwd on L in RLOD as R lifts low in front of L, turning to face ctr (ct 1); quickly drop on R as L quickly lifts low in front of R, turning to face RLOD (ct 2).
3-4 Repeat Fig II, meas 3-4 (turn in place L, R, L, R).
5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.

Sequence: Instrumental—Fig I; Vocal—Fig II; Vocal—Fig III; repeat once from beg.

Dance notes by Željko Jergan and Dorothy Daw 10-98
Presented by Željko Jergan