Opšaj Diri - Pokupski Svatovski Drmeš
(Croatia)

Opšaj Diri (AWP-shy DEER-ee) and Pokupski Svatovski Drmeš (PAW-koop-skee SVAH-tawf-skee DER-mesh) are from the area of Pokuplje in Croatia and represent the most common forms of drmeš found in Croatia. Nena Sokčić presented the dances at the 1986 University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp.

The dances were published in the December 1975 issue of Let's Dance magazine following a presentation at Mendocino Folklore Camp by Nena. Because of some variations in the two presentations, they are being republished in their most recent form.

RECORD: Aman 106 Side A/1 and 2.   2/4 meter

FORMATION: Circle of dancers in back basket hold: hands joined behind adjacent dancers at shldr blade
            level. If a W is between 2 M her arms are on the outside (to show off the beautiful
            sleeves of her blouse), otherwise, the L arm is usually over neighbors R. Keep shldrs open
            to ctr of circle. Use upper arm muscle to hold circle's circumference steady.

STEPS and   Bounce: With wt on both ft, raise heels (upbeat), lower heels (downbeat), bending knees.
STYLING:
            Fig I and II are done smoothly, keeping head level. Fig III becomes almost a run.
            The Drmeš steps (Fig IV) are small and staccato.

MUSIC 2/4   PATTERN

Measures

16 meas   INTRODUCTION. No action. Beg dance with vocal.

   I. SLOW CIRCLE TO LEFT

1   Step on R across L (ct 1); step in RLOD on L (ct 2).

2-16   Repeat meas 1 fifteen times.

  II. FASTER CIRCLE TO LEFT   (music accelerates)

1   Step on R across L, bending R knee a little (ct 1); step in RLOD on ball of L ft, straight-
            ening knee (ct 2).

2-16   Repeat meas 1 fifteen times.

 III. FASTEST CIRCLE TO LEFT   (music accelerates)

1   Step on R across L, bending R knee deeper (ct 1); low leap in RLOD onto ball of L ft
            (ct 2).

2-16   Repeat meas 1 fifteen times.

  IV. DRMEŠ

1   With ft pointed twd ctr, step on R ft in place, sliding L ft fwd a little (ct 1); bring L
            ft beside R and bounce twice (cts 2,&).

2-16   Repeat meas 1, alternating ftwk, fifteen times.

            REPEAT DANCE FROM BEGINNING AND REPEAT AGAIN THROUGH FIG III.