

Sviraj Zlato

(Croatian)

In about 30 villages in Hungary live about 90,000 Croatians. They migrated to this area from the 15th to 19th centuries because of the Turkish invasion in Croatia, or they were moved as migrant workers by the rulers who owned property in Hungary. The folk songs, music, costumes, and dance are only today celebrated during family gatherings, celebrations, or weddings, thanks to the village elders. Musical accompaniment for dances is songs, bagpipe, or tamburitza orchestra. Željko was researching this region during numerous festivals from 1974 to 1986, and then in the summer of 1992, he spent several weeks researching Croatian culture around the cities of Pecs, Mohacs, Baja, and Kalocha. The name translates as "play my golden boy."

Pronunciation:

Music: Tape: "Let's Dance" by Skitnice, Side A/2 2/4 meter
 CD: "A Road Less Traveled" by Skitnice, Band 2.

Formation: Open or closed circle, alternating M and W, facing the ctr. W hands on M shldrs, M hands joined around W back at waist.

Styling: Drmeš: strong vertical movement with bent knees.
Stamping: strong, syncopated on heel of ft.
Bouncing on the spot (in place): tiny vertical bounces.

Meas Pattern

16 meas INTRODUCTION. (Fast music) No action or you may do improvisation drmeš (bounces) in place.

MUSIC #1: Music "U vrtu se jabuke zelene" (Slow music)

PART I: DRMEŠ SIDEWARD I (Vocal)

- 1 Facing ctr, step on L to L with bent knees (ct 1); close R to L with bounce on both ft (ct 2).
 2 Bounce on both ft 6 times with small knee flexes (cts 1,&,2,&,1,&); put full wt on R in place with bent knee as L is lifted slightly off floor under body (ct 2).
 4-12 Repeat meas 1-4, 3 more times (4 in all).

PART II: HEEL CLOSES (Instrumental)

- 1 Facing ctr, repeat Part I, meas 1 (L to L, close R).
 2-3 With wt on balls of ft, open heels (pivot on balls of ft so that heels separate and move away from each other), then close heels, this is repeated twice more (3 in all) (cts 1,&,2,&,1,&); put full wt on R in place with bent knee as L lifts slightly off floor under body (ct 2).
 4-12 Repeat meas 1-4, 3 more times (4 in all).

MUSIC #2: "Sviraj zlato" (Fast music).

PART I: STAMPS (Instrumental)

- 1 Jump fwd onto both ft (ct 1); hop bkwd on L (ct 2); stamp R heel slightly fwd (ct &).
 2-4 Small leap onto R in place (ct 1); stamp L heel slightly fwd (ct &); repeat leap-stamp alternating ftwk 4 1/2 more times (5 1/2 in all) (cts 2,&,1,&,2,&,1,&,2); end with leap onto L (ct &). Cue: 5 leap-stamps beg R and leap L.

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5-16 Repeat meas 1-4, 3 more times (4 in all), except on meas 16 (ending), with wt on R (ct 1); stamp L heel fwd twice (cts &,2). Cue for last series of stamps, meas 14-16: 4 leap-stamps and leap R (ct 1); stamp L heel fwd twice (ct &,2).

PART II: DRMEŠ ON THE SPOT (in place) (Vocal)

1 Bounce with bent knees (ct 1); bounce twice more with slightly bent knees (cts 2,&); (S,Q,Q)

2-16 Repeat meas 1 fifteen more times (16 in all).

1-16 Repeat Part I. Stamps (Instrumental).

Repeat entire dance from Music #1. The dance is done a total of 3 times.

Dance notes by Željko Jergan and Dorothy Daw 4-98

Presented by Željko Jergan