

Beranče – mešovito

(Macedonia)

The south-western part of Macedonia can be divided in several big parts: the regions of Lake Prespa and Lake Ohrid and the plains of Pelagonia (around the towns of Prilep and Bitola). In these regions and in the regions of the neighboring countries, Greece and Albania, a group of dances occurs very frequently. The dances of that group have in common that their measure has a peculiar "five beat." Most of the time these dances are played in a 12/16-rhythm, counted as S-Q-Q-S-Q or 3-2-2-3-2 (although variations like: S-Q-Q-Q-Q or 3-2-2-2-2 occur also). In Greece you can hear it called under the name: "Lithos choros," "Pustjeno," or "Levendikos" (heroes dance). In Macedonia common names are "Bajrače" or "Beranče." The dances "Pusteno oro" and "Ibraim Odža" belong to the same group although they have another step pattern. Even "Kucano oro" and "Dolgoto oro" can be counted in this category. There are different versions for men and women and this particular "mixed Beranče" has a dance pattern of 6 measures. The women's version of Pece Atanasovski has 4 measures, while his men's version counts only 3 measures.

I learned this dance by dancing along with a bunch of young men in the village of Smilevo in the 1980s. The leader of the dance used to give signals for squatting so often that by the end of the dance the participants did not take the effort anymore to come up from their squatting position.

Pronunciation: BEY-rahn-tcheh – meh-SHOH-vee-toh

CD: PAMUK CD 1104/06

Rhythm: 12/16 (S-Q-Q-S-Q or 3-2-2-3-2 counted 1 2 3 4 5).

Formation: Open circle, hands in W-pos or in T-pos (men hands on the shoulders).
Wt on L, face ctr.

Styling: Vigorous, heavy movements, with many turns and squats.

Meas Pattern

8 meas INTRODUCTION

FIGURE

- 1 Facing ctr, moving LOD, hop on L (ct 1); bounce on L (ct 2); step on R to R (ct 3); step on L across behind R (R-knee bent) (ct 4); step on R to R (ct 5).
- 2 Step on L across in front of R (ct 1); hop on L (R ft moving in front of L shin) (ct 2); step on R to R (ct 3); step on L in front of R (ct 4); step bkwd on R (ct 5).
- 3 Hop on R (ct 1); bounce on R (ct 2); facing and moving RLOD, step on L to L (ct 3); step on R across in front of L (ct 4); facing ctr, step on L to L (ct 5).
- 4 Step on R crossed behind L (ct 1); hop on R (ct 2); step on L in place (ct 3); step on R in front of L (ct 1); step bkwd on L (ct 5).
- 5 Facing ctr, moving in place, hop on L (ct 1); bounce on L (ct 2); step on R to R (ct 3); step on L in front of R (ct 1); step bkwd on R.
- 6 Repeat meas 5 with opp ftwk.
Repeat these 6 meas.

Beranče – mešovito—continued

TURNS

After a signal, dancers can make a turn L in meas 6, cts 1-5.

A turn R can be done in meas 2, cts 1-3.

Even a double turn R is possible in meas 2, cts 1-5.

A turn L can be done in meas 3, cts 3-5.

SQUATS

A squat can be made on ct 1 of meas 2, 5, and 6.

Description by Paul Mulders

Presented by Paul Mulders