

Igra Kolo

(Pokuplje, Croatia)

This dance is described as it was done in one village in the Pokuplje region of Croatia. For a description and history of the dance in the United States, refer to the description written by Dick Crum in Old Type Kolos published for the 1993 Tamburiza Extravaganza (Živila Tambura '93).

Pronunciation:

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

Formation: Circle of dancers in couples (optional), joined hands down. One person is “it” in the ctr.

Steps: Polka Step: Step on L (ct 1); step on R (ct &); step on L (cts 2-&). Repeat with opp ftwk. Knees are relaxed, but emphasis is “equalized” to keep step from looking like a Pas-de-basque.

Meas

Pattern

MUSIC A—SLOW TEMPO

1-16 All dancers move to the L with 32 walking steps, beginning R. During this time they may sing the following:

Igra kolo, igra kolo, u dvaćeset i dva

U tom kolo, u tom kolo, lijepi (lijepa) name of person who is “it” igra

Biraj, name, biraj, name, koga ti je drago

Samo nemoj, samo nemoj, koga nemaš rado

(Twenty-two people are dancing in the kolo.

In that kolo pretty (handsome) name is dancing.

Pick, name, pick, name, whomsoever you please.

Only just don't pick one you don't like.)

The person in the ctr (could be the bride at a wedding) walks around freely inside the circle. He (she) wears a large scarf around his (her) neck.

MUSIC B—FAST TEMPO

1-16 At the end of the slow walk, the person in the ctr places the scarf around a chosen person of the opposite sex and leads that person into the ctr. Taking shldr-waist pos, the couple dances 16 Polka steps. Couple may turn slowly to L during this figure. At the end, the chosen person becomes “it” and the dance begins again.

While the couple does their Polka, all other dancers do the same 16 Polka steps in the kolo in place. Or, if they are also in couples, they may dance the same polka together with the ctr couple, the odd-person-out in the kolo would then do the Polka steps in place with the free hands on hips or down.

Presented by Barry Glass