

Presented by Martin Koenig

OPAS
Bulgaria

Martin Koenig learned ^{steps to} this dance in the villages of Kalipetrovo and Srebarna, ~~Dobrudza~~, Bulgaria. It was arranged by Martin Koenig.

in 1967 & 1979

PRONUNCIATION: OH-pahs

TRANSLATION: BELT

RECORD: Balkan Arts MK-6G, Side B, Gand 4
New pressing: Balkan Arts BAUE-1, Side A, Band 4.

FORMATION: Mixed short lines; belt hold (L over R). Alternate, front basket (L over R).

STYLING: The feeling of this dance, typical of many Dobrudjan dances, is very much into the ground.

Chukche: A ^{Bulgarian word for a} low hop that doesn't leave the ground.

(Pronounced CHOOK-cheh)

METER: 2/4

PATTERN

Meas Cts

INTRODUCTION: No action. Leader begins dance with any musical phrase.

FIG. I: BAVNO ("slow")

- 1 1 Facing ctr, step sdwd R on R.
- 2 Close L to R, with wt.
- 2 1 Step sdwd R on R.
- 2 Chukche on R while bringing L across R
- 3 1 Step on L.
- 2 Chukche on L, lifting R.

Alternate Basic Figure, usually danced by Martin Koenig, as:

- 1 1 Facing ctr, step sdwd R on R.
- 2 Step L across (or beside) R.
- 2 1 Step sdwd R on R.
- 2 Step L behind R.

FIG. II: CHUKNI NA MYASTO ("Hammer in place")

- 1 1 In place, fall heavily onto R.
- 2 " " " " " L.
- 2 1 " " " " " R.
- & " " " " " L.
- 2 " " " " " R.
- 3 1 " " " " " L, turning body slightly to L.
- 2 Stamp R beside L, no wt

6 times in all

cont

(*"straight"*)

FIG. III: PRAVO (This fig moves straight twd ctr, and straight out.)

- 1 1-2 Step R-L fwd twd ctr.
- 2 1 Step R fwd.
2 Small chukche on R, L moves fwd.
- 3 1 Step L fwd.
2 Chukche on L.
- 4 1-2 Step R,L bkwd.
- 5 1 Step R bkwd
2 Small chukche on R, L moves bkwd.
- 6 1 Step L bkwd, leave R in place
2 Lift R, drawing it back slightly.

(*"hammer forward"*)

1-3 etc FIG. IV: CHUKNI NAPRED Repeat Fig. II, "Chukni" as many times as the leader indicates, moving twd ctr. Finish off with:

- 4 1-2 Stamp R twice in place.

NOTE: Meas 4 is a transition meas, and leads directly into Fig. V.

- 1 FIG. V: (Move gradually out of ctr in LOD, keep knees bent.
1 Moving in LOD, keep low to ground, knees bent, strong step R to R.
2 Hop on R as L leg lifts across R, knee bent.
- 2 1 Moving in LOD, strong step L across R, knee bent.
2 Hop on L, swinging R leg in fwd arc, knee bent.
- 3 1 Click ft tog, dropping on both ft under body, knees bent.
2 Hold.

1-2 FIG. VI: Repeat Fig. V, meas 1-2.

- 3 1 Hop on L, swinging R leg across L, then behind L.
& Step R behind L
2 Step L in place

SUGGESTED SEQUENCE OF FIGURES

- I - II - III
- I - II - IV - V
- I - II - IV - V - VI

NOTE: Each Fig. in each group may be done any number of times at the leader's discretion. Also each group of Fig can be done any number of times at the leader's discretion.

SPECIAL NOTE: Fig. VI, if done, normally follows Fig V. Fig IV, if done follows Fig. II. Fig V always follows Fig IV.

Familiarity with the music will determine which Figs the leader chooses to do, and how many times. Marty usually did Fig. VI only twd the end of the music - and not very many times.