

ORAVIČANKA (Oh-rah-vee-chahn-kah)

The dance is from the village of Injevo, Radoviško in southeastern Yugoslav Macedonia. It derives its name from a neighboring village, Oravica.

SOURCE: It has been taught in this country by a number of people who attended the summer folk dance institute in Badija in 1973 and learned it there from members of the village performing group from Injevo. In particular, it was presented by Carol Akawie at the 5th annual Aman Dance Institute, 1974, and the only available music is a record made by members of the Aman orchestra. I also have my own super-8 films of performances by the Injevo group and a group from nearby Topolnica at the 1971 Ilindenski denovi in Bitola and the 1972 Balkanski folklor festival in Ohrid. I have also had access to a film of the Injevo group made by Sheila Kassoy.

RECORD: Festival FR-4117 Side 1, Band 2. (Incorrectly spelled on the record "Oro vičanka". Note: according to Sheila Kassoy, the cut labelled "Oro vičanka" is in fact the music for Injevsko, a local variant of Čačak, and not Oravičanka. The correct music is then to be found on Side 2, Band 2 and is incorrectly labelled "Injevsko".

Formation: Open circle of women, leader on the right. Hands are joined and held down ("v" position.)

METER: 2/4

DESCRIPTION:

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| I | 1. Face and move right (CCW).
Step fwd. (CCW) on R.
2. Step fwd. (CCW) on L. | Note: you can do a small preliminary lift on L as you step on R. |
| II | 1. Running step fwd. (CCW) on R.
&. Step or run fwd. (CCW) on L.
2. Running step fwd. (CCW) on R. | (Again a slight prelim. lift on L is possible.)
Bring L to or past R. |
| III | 1. Running step fwd. (CCW) on L.
&. Step or run fwd. (CCW) on R.
2. Running step fwd. (CCW) on L. | Bring R to or past L. |
| IV | 1. Turn to face center. Step laterally R to right (CCW).
2. Small lift or bounce on R in place. | This step puts a brake on the rapid movement to the right so the body actually lean slightly to the left.
Free L is bent at knee, raised a bit above the ground, but kept under the body, not forward or to the side. |
| V | 1. Small step laterally L to left.
&+ Small preliminary lift on L.
2. Step on R across in front of L. | Free R is brought across in front of L for its next step.
Body may face slightly left of center. |
| VI | 1. Step on L in place, or slightly to left and back.
2. Lift on L in place while turning to face right of center. | Face center.
Free R is bent at knee and held close to L, under the body. |
| VII | 1. Step on R to right (CCW).
2. Lift on R moving slightly fwd (CCW). | Continue to turn to right so that again face right (CCW) about circle.
Free foot held under body as above. |

(over)

R. Letbman 5/81

ORAVICANKA (cont.)

VIII Repeat Meas. III.

Style notes: slight syncopation may exist in measures II, III and VIII. In such cases, the rhythm 1 & 2 (J J J) becomes more like 1 &+ 2 (J: R J) as it is in V.

The dance is done pretty much on the full foot, but it covers quite a distance in measures VIII - IV even though the knees are kept close together so that the movement is achieved primarily by a separation of the legs below the knees.