

MORAVAC
(Serbia)

The name of the dance derives from the largest river, "Morava", which runs through the Sumadija region. The origin of the dance has been lost in time, but traditionally has been done to only one folk melody. The original version (last Figure of the dance) is done only in the Sumadija region; in the rest of Serbia it is done more or less like an U Sest (which probably developed out of Moravac). Some of the steps were taken from the KOLO version of Moravac. The dance is normally done free style and was put in a form here for teaching purposes.

Pronunciation: moh-RAH-vahts (as pronounced in the Serbian language).

Cassette: NK 85-2 4/4 meter

Formation: Medium length lines. If slow music is used, join in escort pos; if fast, "V" pos. If done by M only, they will sometimes join in "T" pos. This recording is moderately fast. If every other person is M,W,M,W, etc, and escort pos is used, M tuck thumbs in belt front and W put hands through M arms.

Style: This dance should be done with rather small ftwk and sdwd movement except for the last Figure.

Serbian dances are very light and done mostly on the balls of the ft with slightly bent knees. Their styling has all kinds of extra flourishes such as bounces, lifts, swings, etc. These notes only have the basic steps and should be used only as a reference after learning the dance from a competent teacher.

| <u>Meas</u> | <u>Cts</u> | <u>Pattern</u> |
|-------------|------------|---|
| | | No Introduction. |
| | | <u>I.</u> |
| 1 | 1-2 | Facing ctr and moving slightly sdwd R, step on R to R, bending and straightening knees. |
| | 3 | Flex R knee as L touches in front of R, with wt mostly on ball of R ft. |
| | 4 | Flex R knee again, L remains touching fwd. |
| 2-3 | | Repeat meas 1 twice, alternating ftwk and direction. |
| 4 | 1-4 | Step L,R,L in place. Slight flex on each ct, slightly deeper flex on ct 3. Hold (ct 4). |
| 5-8 | | Repeat meas 1-4 |
| | | <u>II.</u> |
| 1 | 1 | Facing ctr and moving slightly sdwd R, step on R to R with knee flex. |
| | 2-3 | Flex R twice (small), L ft beg to cross R. |
| | 4 | Step on L across R with bent knee. |
| 2 | | Repeat meas 1, except on ct 4 touch ball of L ft in front of R. |
| 3-4 | | Repeat meas 2 twice, alternating ftwk. |
| 5-16 | | Repeat meas 1-4 three more times, alternating ftwk. |

MORAVAC (Continued)III.

- 1 1-2 Facing ctr and moving slightly sdwd R, step on R to R, bending and straighten knee.
 3 Closing L to R, with wt on both ft, flex knees.
 4 Step on L in place with bent knee as R is lifted next to L.
 2 Repeat meas 1, except on ct 4 step on R in place with bent knee as L is lifted next to R.
 3-4 Repeat meas 2, twice more, alternating ftwk.
 5-16 Repeat meas 1-4, three more times (4 in all).

IV.

- 1 1 Facing ctr and moving sdwd, on balls of ft, step on R to R.
 2 Step on L behind R.
 3-4 Repeat cts 1-2.
 2 1-3 Repeat cts 1-3, meas 1.
 4 Hold on R as L lifts beside R. (7 sdwd steps to R).
 3 1 Step on L sdwd L.
 2 Step on R in front of L with bent knee.
 3 Step on L back in place with bent knee.
 4 Hold.
 4 Repeat meas 3 with opp ftwk (R to R, Lx, R back).
 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 with opp ftwk and direction (move to L).

V.

- 1 1 Facing ctr and moving sdwd, on balls of ft, step on R to R.
 2 Step on L behind R.
 3 Step on R to R.
 4 Step on L across R.
 2 1-3 Repeat meas 1 (side, behind, side), except on ct 3 L ft moves close to R ankle.
 4 Hold on R as L beg to circle fwd.
 3 1 Hop on R in place as L circles bkwd.
 2 Step on L behind R.
 3 Step on R next to L as L moves close to R ankle.
 4 Hold on R as L beg to circle fwd.
 4 1-2 Repeat meas 3, cts 1-2.
 3 Step on R in place with bent knee as L lifts bkwd.
 4 Hold.
 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 with opp ftwk and direction.

VI.

- 1 1-2 Facing diag R and moving in LOD, step on R, bend and straighten knee.
 3 Flex R, L beg to move across R.
 4 Turning to face ctr, step on L across R with bent knee.
 2 1-4 Turning to face RLOD, step R,L,R,hold bkwd in LOD.
 3-4 Moving bkwd in LOD step L,R,L,hold; R,L,R,hold.
 5 1-4 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk, bkwd in LOD.
 6 1-4 Beg to turn twd LOD, step L,R,L,hold in LOD.
 7-8 Facing LOD, step R,L,R,hold; L,R,L,hold in LOD
 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8
 Note: on meas 2-4 and 6-8, do a slightly deeper knee bend on ct 3.

DANCE SEQUENCE: Fig I-VI; Fig III-VI; Fig I-VI.

Presented by Bora Gajicki