

# BATUTA

## Bulgarian Vlach

PRONUNCIATION: bah-TOO-tah

TRANSLATION: Stamping

SOURCE: Dick Oakes learned this dance from Yves Moreau who learned it from the village dance group in Rabrovo in Northwest Bulgaria during the fall of 1971.

BACKGROUND: The dance is done by the Vlach people of Northwest Bulgaria. The Vlachs were, for a long time, nomadic and eventually settled primarily in northern Greece, Macedonia, northeast Serbia, and along the Danube River in Bulgaria. The Vlach language and folklore are a mixture of Romanian and local elements. During the Middle Ages, many Vlachs were shepherds who drove their flocks through the mountains of Central and Eastern Europe. Vlach shepherds may be found as far north as southern Poland (Podhale) and the eastern Czech Republic (Moravia) by following the Carpathians, the Dinaric Alps in the west, the Pindus Mountains in the south, and the Caucasus Mountains in the east.

MUSIC: Worldtone (45rpm) WT-YM-001

FORMATION: Mixed lines of M and W holding neighbors' belts in "X" pos, R arm under. If desired, lines may be segregated. Often, the two M at the ends of the line hold wooden canes in their free hands.

METER/RHYTHM: 2/4

STEPS/STYLE: Steps are small and knees are slightly flexed. There is a rather sharp, bouncy feeling but not airy or light. The dance has a solid, heavy quality about it.

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### MEAS

### MOVEMENT DESCRIPTION

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#### INTRODUCTION

None. Leader may start at beg of any 8-meas musical phrase. He may call the name of the figure or may simply whistle or shout "hopa" or "hopsha" to change to the other figure.

#### I. VLAJNA

- 1 Step R swd (ct 1); step L next to R, almost displacing R and bending knees slightly (ct 2);
- 2 Repeat action of meas 1;
- 3 Step R diag fwd to R (ct 1); pause (ct 2);
- 4 Step L diag fwd to R (ct 1); pause (ct 2);

- 5 Step R slightly across in front of L (ct 1); pause (ct 2);
- 6 Moving diag away from ctr to L, step L (ct 1); step R next to L (ct 2);
- 7 Facing ctr, small step L bwd (ct 1); small step R bwd (ct 2);
- 8 Small step L bwd (ct 1); pause or small lift of R in front of L (ct 2).

Repeat Fig I until changed by leader's signal.

## II. BĂTUTĂ

- 1-2 Repeat action of Fig I, meas 1-2;
- 3 Facing slightly to R, step R (ct 1); small hop R as L is raised in backward-bicycle-peddalling action (ct 2); facing ctr, small sharp stamp L next to R without wt (ct &);
- 4 Small leap onto L (ct 1); small sharp stamp R next to L (ct &); small hop L (ct 2); small sharp stamp R next to L (ct &);
- 5 Facing slightly to R, step R (ct 1); small hop R as bent L knee is brought next to and slightly fwd of R knee (ct 2); facing ctr, small sharp stamp L next to R without wt (ct &);
- 6-7 Repeat action of meas 1-2 to L with opp ftwk;
- 8 Small step L swd as R is raised slightly across in front of L (ct 1); pause (ct 2).

Repeat Fig II until changed by leader's signal.