

## PLOVDIVSKA RŮČENICA

Bulgarian

PRONUNCIATION: PLOHV-deev-skah RUH-cheh-nee-tsah

TRANSLATION: Dance from Plovdiv

SOURCE: Dick Oakes learned this dance from Marcus (Holt) Moskoff who learned it while attending several village weddings in the Plovdiv region of West-central Thrace during the summer of 1972.

BACKGROUND: Plovdiv is the second largest city in Bulgaria and is an important economic, transport, cultural, and educational center. There is evidence of habitation in Plovdiv dating back to the 6th millennium before the current era (BCE), when the first Neolithic settlements were established; it is said to be one of the oldest cities in Europe. The city is located near the edge of the Thracian plain. This history-rich area is between Greece and Turkey on the south and the Danube River with Romania on the north. Plovdiv, like Rome, was built around and upon seven ancient hills rising from the plain. Today Plovdiv spreads along both sides of the Martisa River.

The dance also has been notated as "Plovdivska Râčenica."

MUSIC: XOPO (LP) X-LP-5

FORMATION: Long line of mixed M and W with hands joined and held at shldr level in "W" pos.

METER/RHYTHM: 7/8. The rhythm is quick-quick-slow (2-2-3) and shown below in three dancer's counts.

STEPS/STYLE: THRACIAN RŮČENICA STEP: Facing diag R, Step R fwd, retaining some wt on L in place and bending both knees (cts 1-2); lift heel of supporting R ft, raising L up and slightly outward in back (ct 3). Continuing in same dir, reverse ftwk for next meas.

BASIC RŮČENICA STEP: Step R,L,R (cts 1,2,3). Reverse ftwk for next meas.

These two figures are interchanged at will.

The typical Thracian style is "heavy," with knees bent and ft somewhat apart. There is a slight flexing of the knees on the first and third beats of each meas.

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MEAS

MOVEMENT DESCRIPTION

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INTRODUCTION - None (or wait 8 meas).

NOTE: The following Figs are interchanged at will.

## I. THRACIAN RŮČENICA

- 1-2 Facing diag R and moving CW in LOD, dance two Thracian Růčenica Steps;  
3 Turning to face diag L and moving diag bwd R, step R (ct 1); step L (ct 2); pause  
(ct 3);  
4 Step R (ct 1); step L (ct 2); pause (ct 3).

## II. BASIC RŮČENICA

- 1-2 Facing diag R and moving CW in LOD, dance two Basic Růčenica Steps;  
3-4 Repeat action of Fig I, meas 3-4.