

TETOVSKO ORO

Macedonian

PRONUNCIATION: TEH-tohv-skoh OH-roh

TRANSLATION: Dance from "a place where we want to live"

SOURCE: Dick Oakes learned Tetovsko oro from Rubi Vučeta, a prominent Balkan dance leader and teacher in the 1950s and 1960s in the Los Angeles, California, area and subsequently taught it to folk dancers in the United States.

BACKGROUND: Tetovsko oro, also known as Makedonski oro or Makedonsk Poskočica, is related to the large family of Balkan dances known as "Beranče." Tetovo is a picturesque little town about 25 miles west of Skopje. Tetovo is built on the foothills of a range of mountains called Šar-planina. The home of several ethnic Albanian political parties and a population in which Albanians form a majority, Tetovo has become the unofficial capital of a predominantly Albanian region which extends in an arc from Skopje to Ohrid. According to myth, the town was named after the legendary hero Tetoo, who supposedly cleared the town of snakes. In reality, however, the name Tetovo comes from its original roots Htetovo or a "place where we want to live." The initial "h" sound was regularly lost in Macedonian.

MUSIC: NAMA 1 (LP) 1101, side 1, band 7, "Tetovsko Oro" (speeds up)
London International (LP) SW 99448, side 1, band 1, "Makedonski Oro" (fast)
Radio-Televizija Beograd (LP) LPV 175, side B, band 5, "Gina Moma Kruši Brala" (slow)

FORMATION: Open cir or lines of mixed M and W with hands joined and held down in "V" pos, leader at R end. End dancers' hands are at small of back. Leader may flourish a handkerchief in R hand.

METER/RHYTHM: 9/8. The rhythm is slow-slow-slow-quick-slow ($2 + 2 + 2 + 1 + 2 = 9$) and is counted here in five dancer's beats with the fourth being the shortest.

The steps in the second meas are danced across the basic rhythm as slow-quick-quick-slow-quick-slow ($2 + 1 + 1 + 2 + 1 + 2 = 9$).

STEPS/STYLE: Leg action is with a soft bending of knees and the weight tends to be predominantly on the forward portion of the ft.

INTRODUCTION

Because the dance and musical phrases do not coincide, the dance may start on any meas the leader desires.

THE DANCE

- 1 Facing ctr, step R in front of L (ct 1); rock back onto L in place (ct 2); low hop L with R at or just in front of L ankle (ct 3); low hop L as R extends low twd LOD (ct 4); turning to face slightly to R, step R in LOD (ct 5);
- 2 Facing slightly and moving to R, step L across in front of R (ct 1); low hop L with R at L ankle or extended low twd LOD (ct 2); step R in LOD (ct 3); step L across in front of R (ct 4); low hop L with R at L ankle or extended low twd LOD (ct 5); step R in LOD (ct 6);
- 3 Facing ctr, step L in front of R (ct 1); rock back onto R in place (ct 2); low hop R with L at or just in front of R ankle (ct 3); low hop R as L extends low twd RLOD (ct 4); turning to face slightly L, step L in RLOD (ct 5).

Repeat entire dance from beg.