

VRNI SE, VRNI

Macedonian

PRONUNCIATION: VER-nee seh, VER-nee

TRANSLATION: Return to me, return

SOURCE: Dick Oakes learned this dance from Atanas Kolarovski who taught it at the Stockton Folk Dance Camp in 1968 and in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in 1978.

BACKGROUND: Vrni Se, Vrni is from the Vardar Valley and takes its name from the song "Vrni se, vrni, libe Marice" in which a young man tells his girlfriend to go back home, because his journey will be too difficult for her to accompany him. The Vardar basin includes two-thirds of the territory of the Republic of Macedonia, which some have also called "Vardar Macedonia" after the river. The valley comprises fertile lands in Polog and Thessaloniki prefectures and Gevgelija and other parts. The river is surrounded by mountains elsewhere. The superhighways Greece Interstate 1 in Greece and M1 and E75 run within the valley along the river's entire length to near Skopje.

MUSIC: Festival (45rpm) F-4005  
Jugoton (LP) LPY-V-701  
Voyager AK-001 (LP) VRLP-402

FORMATION: Open cir of mixed M and W with hands joined and held at shldr level with elbows bent in "W" pos.

METER/RHYTHM: 2/4

STEPS/STYLE: Fig I is danced in a slow, deliberate manner using 2 meas for each basic motif.

SYNCOPATED TWO-STEP: Described here for meas 1-2 of Fig I.

Rise slightly on ball of L with straight L knee and extend toe of R in LOD to where you plan to step (bt 8 of previous motif);

1-2 Facing diag R and moving CCW in LOD, step R bending R knee slightly (bt 1); step on ball of L near back of R heel pressuring up onto L so that both knees are straight (bt 4); step R bending R knee slightly (bt 5); rise slightly on ball of R with straight R knee and extend toe of L in LOD to where you plan to step (bt 8);

3-4 Repeat action of first meas in same dir but with opp ftwk.

OFFBEAT WALK: Not "unconventional or eccentric" but meaning not on the main beat. This step is danced during the walking part in Fig I. Described here for meas 5-8, the action is similar in meas 13-24.

5-6 Facing diag R and moving in LOD, rise slightly on ball of L with straight L knee and extend toe of R in LOD to where you plan to step (bt 1); step R bending R knee slightly (bt 2); repeat action of bts 1,2 in same dir with opp ftwk (bts 5,6);

7-8 Rise slightly on ball of L with straight L knee and extend toe of R in LOD to where you plan to step (bt 1); turning to face ctr, step R bending knee slightly (bt 2); rise on ball of R while raising bent L knee in front with L ft in front of R shin (ct 5); hold.

LIFT: A low hop in which the ball of ft does not leave the floor.

Movements are soft, without stiffness or jerkiness.

---

MEAS

MOVEMENT DESCRIPTION

---

1-16 INTRODUCTION (Instrumental) - No action.

I. SLOW PART (Vocal)

1-4 Facing diag R and moving in LOD, dance two Syncopated Two-steps R;  
5-8 Offbeat Walk R.  
9-12 Facing diag L and moving in RLOD, dance two Syncopated Two-steps L;  
13-16 Offbeat Walk L.  
17-20 Offbeat Walk R;  
21-24 Offbeat Walk L.

II. FAST PART (Instrumental)

1 Bringing joined hands down to sides in "V" pos and facing and moving CCW to R in LOD, hop L as R reaches out to R (ct 1); step R (ct &); step L (ct 2);  
2 Repeat action of meas 1.  
3 Run RLR (cts 1&2);  
4 Run LRL (cts 1&2).  
5 Rise on L, pivoting to face ctr and raising bent R knee in front as joined hands are raised to "W" pos (ct 1); step R across L (ct 2);  
6 Step L swd (ct 1); step R next to or behind L (ct 2);  
7 Rise on R, raising bent L knee in front (ct 1); pause (ct 2);  
8 Bringing hands down to "V" pos, step LRL in place (cts 1&2).

9-16 Repeat action of meas 1-8 except that hands remain in "W" pos on meas 16 in preparation for the beg of the dance.

Repeat entire dance from beg.

---

VRNI SE, VRNI  
Macedonia

Vrni se, vrni, libe Mariče,  
Ne idi ti so men'.  
/ Aj pred nas ima najgasta gora,  
Ne možž' da premineš. /

Go back, go back dear Marice,  
Don't go with me,  
Before us is the thickest forest,  
You can't cross it.

Jas ke se storam šareno pile  
Gora ke preletam.  
/ I pak so tebe, libe, ke dojdam,  
I tvoja ke bidam. /

I will make myself into a colorful bird,  
I will fly across the forest,  
And then I will go with you, love,  
And I will be yours.

Vrni se, vrni, libe Mariče,  
Ne idi ti so men'.  
/ Aj pred nas ima dalboka reka,  
Ne mož; da preplivaš. /

Go back, go back dear Marice,  
Don't go with me,  
Before us is a deep river,  
You can't swim across it.

Ke se pretvoram vo riba mrenka,  
Reka ke preplivam.  
/ I pak so ebe, libe, ke dojdam,  
I tvoja ke bidam. /

I will transform myself into a little barbel fish,  
I will swim across the river,  
And then I will go with you, love,  
And I will be yours.