

ZAJEČARKA

Serbian Vlach

PRONUNCIATION: ZAH-yeh-chahr-kah

TRANSLATION: Dance named for Zaječar

SOURCE: Dick Oakes learned this dance from Dennis Boxell. Dick Crum, Rickey Holden, and George Tomov also have taught this dance.

BACKGROUND: Zaječar is a large town in central Serbia, about 7 miles from the border with Western Bulgaria. Zaječar is the center of a large minority of Romanian-speaking "Vlachs" and the high-raised hand position in Part 2 was meant to be characteristic of their movements. The Late Roman fortified palace compound and memorial complex of Gamzigrad-Romuliana at the outskirts of Zaječar was commissioned by Emperor Caius Valerius Galerius Maximianus, in the late 3rd and early 4th century. It was known as Felix Romuliana, named after the Emperor's mother Romula. Slavs entered the region during the 7th century, and the tribe living in the area was called Timočani.

MUSIC: Folkraft (45rpm) 1532x45 B
Folk Dancer (45rpm) MH 1013 A

FORMATION: Line of mixed M and W with hands held down in "V" pos.

METER/RHYTHM: 2/4

STEPS/STYLE: PAS-DE-BASQUE: Step L swd (ct 1); step R across in front, in back, or next to L (ct &); step L back in place, bending knee slightly (ct 2). Repeat is with opp ftwk.

STEP-TOUCH: Step R (ct 1), close and touch L next to R without taking wt (ct 2). Repeat is with opp ftwk.

Note that Dick Crum taught the second Fig with the hands raised which is meant to be characteristic of the movements of the Vlachs.

MEAS

MOVEMENT DESCRIPTION

THE DANCE

I. Fast Part

1 Facing slightly and moving R, run R (ct 1), run L (ct 2),
2-4 Turning to face ctr, three PAS DE BASQUE steps (R,L,R),
5-8 Repeat action of meas 1-4, reversing dir and ftwk.

II. Slow Part

9 Facing slightly and moving R, walk R (ct 1), walk L (ct 2),
10-12 Turning to face ctr, three STEP-TOUCH steps (R,L,R),
13-16 Repeat action of meas 9-12, reversing dir and ftwk.

Repeat entire dance from beg.