

Gorarçe

(Albania)

From the village of Gorça (Goricë) on the Albanian side of Lake Prespa, right next to where the borders of Greece, Albania, and Macedonia meet. This dance belongs to the same family as the Greek Tsamikos, which shares the same tempo and rhythm and parts of some figures (at least of some versions of Tsamikos). Lisette Langeveld, from whom this dance was learned, is a Dutch folk dance teacher specializing in Albanian dances. The first two figures are village steps. The last is somewhat choreographed for performance.

Pronunciation: gohr-AHR-cheh

Music: Dansen uit Albanie en Kosovo (cassette tape from Lisette Langeveld.

Rhythm: 3/4 meter, counted 1-2, 3 or S Q.

Formation: Line facing ctr, leader at the right. Hands joined in a wide, open W-pos, or in T-pos.

Meas

Pattern

FIGURE I

- 1 Step on L heel twd ctr (ct 1); step on whole L ft, flexing knee (ct 2); step back into place on R, bringing L heel in front of R shin (ct 3).
- 2 Kick L ft fwd (ct 1); swing L ft in a CCW arc to behind R, keeping wt on the ball of R ft (ct 2); step on L behind R (ct 3).
- 3 Step on ball of R ft to R side (ct 1); step on ball of L ft to L side (ct 2); step on R in front of L (ct 3).
- 4 Repeat meas 3 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 5 Leap high onto R to R side (ct 1); continue moving to the R with 2 small steps on L, R (cts 2,3).

FIGURE II

- 1 Jump 3 times in place or moving slightly to the R on the balls of both ft (cts 1,2,3).
- 2 step on R to R side (ct 1); lift L across to the R (ct 2); step on L across in front of R (ct 3).
- 3 Repeat meas 1 to finish this step.

FIGURE III

- 1-2 Repeat Fig I, meas 1-2.
- 3 Leap onto R in place (ct 1); step on L in front of R (ct 2); step back on R (ct 3).
- 4 Repeat meas 3 with opp ftwk and direction (cts 1-3); quickly change wt onto R ft (ct &).
- 5 Facing and moving to the R, take a big, gliding step on L (ct 1); step on R next to L (ct &); repeat ct 1 (ct 2); hop on L, bringing R knee across to L in front of L leg, keeping R ft anchored behind L calf (ct 3); quickly step on R in LOD (ct &).
- 6-8 Repeat meas 5 three more times, leaving out the final step onto R and prolonging hop on L instead.
- 9-10 Repeat Fig I, meas 1-2 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 11 Repeat meas 3 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 12 Repeat meas 3.
- 13-16 Repeat meas 5-8 with opp ftwk and direction.

Notes by Erik Bendix

Presented by Erik Bendix