

DEVOLLIÇE  
(Albania)

Notes by Bob Leibman: The name of the dance refers to the Devolli region in southeastern Albania. The dance consists of a slow part in approximately 2/4 rhythm followed by a faster dance in 6/8 which may also be done at the end of other dances. Women may do this dance, but it is primarily a man's dance and was done as such on most occasions when I have seen it. (It was performed on stage at the 1971 Ohrid festival and in 1972 at weddings in the village of Krani.)

Pronunciation: deh-vohl-LEE-cheh

Record: LP: SELO, Vol. 1 Albanian Songs & Dances Side A/3.

Garlic Press Cassette 001

Rhythm: Approximately 2/4 with a lengthening of ct 2, especially on all even-numbered meas. 2/4 and 6/8 meter

Formation: An open circle, leader on R end. Hands are joined and held fwd anywhere from waist to shldr level.

Meas   Ct

Pattern

PART I - 2/4 meter

Basic Pattern

The dance begins by facing to R of ctr and moving about the circle to the R (LOD).

- |    |   |   |
|----|---|---|
| 1  | 1 | Step fwd on R (LOD).  |
| 2  | 1 | Step fwd on L (LOD).  |
| 3  | 1 | Step fwd on R (LOD).  |
| 4  | 1 | Turn to face ctr and step fwd on L (directly into ctr).<br>The free R ft is lifted and brought behind the L knee without emphasis.  |
| 5  | 1 | Step back on R (out of circle).   |
| 6  | 1 | Step onto ball of L ft behind and to R of the R ft.<br>The L ft and the body are turned naturally somewhat to L of ctr.   |
|    | 2 | Wt is shifted back to R in place and body turns twd ctr again.  |
| 7  | 1 | Step sdwd on L to L.  |
| 8  | 1 | Step on R beside L, or behind it.   |
| 9  | 1 | Step sdwd on L to L. (as in meas 7).  |
| 10 | 1 | Step on R beside L.   |
| 11 | 1 | Still facing ctr, step on L across in front of R. This is accompanied by a flexing of both knees so that the step is performed in a slight crouch (but don't bend fwd) and then |
|    | 2 | straighten knees somewhat.  |
| 12 | 1 | Bring free R leg across in front of L. It may be raised in the air and bent at the knee, or it may simply touch the ground to L and fwd of L ft.                                |

Styling Note: The slight dip in meas 11 may sometimes also be done in meas 7 and 9. Steps 1, 4 and 11 are often performed with a slight preparatory lift (çukçe) before stepping on the beat.

DEVOLLIÇE (Continued)Variations on Basic Pattern

- A. Anyone in the line may choose to replace one or more of meas 1, 2 and 3 by:
1. Step R (L) fwd (L)D).
  - & Close L (R) to L (R).
  - 2 Step R (L) fwd (LOD).
- B The leader and perhaps the next two or three people in line may do a slow CW turn during meas 1-2. It can be performed with either the two single steps described , or the step-close-step of Variation A.
- C. Squats: Performed only by the leader and those next to him. They may be performed while moving to and facing R on meas 1,2 and 3; while moving L and facing ctr on meas 7 and 9, or while moving R and facing ctr on meas 11. Except in meas 11, they are generally performed with ft somewhat farther apart than knees and thighs.

Meas	Ct	PART II - 6/8 meter Dancers' beats: 1,2,3.
1	1	Step R to R (LOD).
	2	Step L into ctr of circle. Hands may be brought fwd slightly for emphasis.
	3	Slight flex of L knee. Free R is brought behind L calf.
2	1	Step back on R (out of circle).
	2-3	Two lifts or low hops on R while turning bkwd CCW. (End up facing L of ctr). The free L ft is brought through a low arc - knee fairly straight and ft somewhat out to the side away from R - to a pos with knee bent and L ft near R.
3	1	Step back on L (LOD).
	2	Step back on ball of R ft (LOD) (or simply touch without taking wt.)
	3	Shift wt back onto L in place.

At this point begins an optional 4 meas squat sequence which may be omitted or performed any number of times in succession before finishing the dance phrase with meas 4 and 5. The most common sequence included two of these 4-meas squat sequences for a dance phrase of 13 meas.

Squat 1:

- 1 Large step fwd (RLOD) on R and beg to turn CW.
- 2-3 Turn CW while doing 2 lifts or hops on R (End up facing R of ctr). Free L is brought around while holding it somewhat straight and out to the side. It ends up fwd of R.

Note: This may be performed with an actual wt shift onto L to L on ct 2 and then an immediate return of wt to R on ct 3.

Squat 2:

- 1 Leap or step onto L across in front of R (LOD)-body turned R of ctr.
- 2 Leap into squat on both ft facing ctr.
- 3 Rise on L with free R leg held out fwd and to the R in preparation for the next step.

DEVOLLIÇE (Continued)Squat 3:

- 1-3 Stepping R,L,R (cts 1,2,3) make a complete CW turn in the area just to the R of that occupied while squatting. (First step is to R).

Squat 4:

- 1 Leap or step onto L by or slightly back of R (face ctr).  
 2 Leap into squat on both ft (face ctr or slightly L of ctr).  
 3 Rise on L with free R leg extended fwd (face L of ctr).

The dance phrase ends with meas 4 and 5 after any number of repeats of Squats 1-4.

- 4 1-3 This is like Squat 1.  
 5 1 Step fwd on L (LOD).  
 2 Touch R near L (to side of or slightly fwd of) without taking wt.  
 3 Hold

Dance notes by Bob Leibman  
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Presented by Stephen Kotansky