

Čučuk

(Povardarije, Macedonia)

Čučuk, most likely derived from the Turkish word *çoçek* (or the Macedonian word *čoček*), is a *krsteno* or crossing type of dance which comes from Skopje and the Vardar River region of Macedonia.

Pronunciation: CHEW-chook

Cassette: Kotansky Camp Tape – 1995;

Rhythm: 9/8 meter, counted 1, 2, 3, 4 or 1, 2, 3, 4, &

Formation: Dance begins in a loose semi-circle with leader at end, no hand hold. Eventually a shoulder hold will be used.

Meas

Pattern

INTRODUCTION.

- 1 Facing LOD (CCW), step fwd on L (ct 1); slide on L slightly bkwd while stepping fwd on R (weight is evenly distributed) (ct 2); step fwd on L (ct 3); hop on L as R moves fwd and through (ct 4); step fwd on R (ct &).
- 2-9 Repeat meas 1 eight more times (9 in all).

BASIC STEP

- 1 Step fwd L, R (cts 1,2); step fwd on L, turning to face ctr and joining in T-pos (shoulder hold), or W in W-pos (ct 3); step bkwd on R (ct 4).
- 2 Lift on R while bringing L knee up and fwd (ct 1); step on L to L (ct 2); step on R across L (ct 3); step back on L in place (ct 4).
- 3-5 Repeat meas 2, alternating ftwk three more times (4 in all). Note: Begin from meas 1, but note ct 1 of meas 1 will now be a lift instead of a step fwd.

BREAK-AWAY

As music speeds up, dancers release shldr hold and dance solo in a semi-circular formation facing LOD (CCW).

- 1 Repeat meas 1 of Introduction, but begin by hopping on L replacing leap: hop L, R, L fwd, R back.
- 2 Leap fwd onto L (ct 1); chug on while placing R fwd (weight is evenly distributed (ct 2); step fwd on L (ct 3); turning to face ctr, leap onto R to R (ct 4); step on L behind and to R of R (ct &).
- 3 Step on R to R side (ct 1); lift on R while bringing L up in front of R knee (ct 2); step quickly bkwd on L to place (ct &); step on R in place and bring L ft up in front sharply (ct 3); step L, R in place (cts 4, &).
- 4-5 Repeat meas 3, alternating ftwk and direction, twice more (3 in all), except on last ct 4, &, turn to face LOD.

SQUATS

- 1 Repeat meas 1 of Break Away (hop L, R, L fwd, R back).
- 2 Lifting L knee up, leap on L across R (cutting action), as you land on L, lift R bkwd in prep for next movement (ct 1); leap on R across L (ct 2); squat deeply onto both ft (knees shldr-width apart) (ct 3); come up onto L and lift R up to L side (ct 4).
- 3 Repeat meas 2, but start by crossing R over L (ct 1); L over R (ct 2); squat (ct 3); come up on L (ct 4).
- 4 Repeat meas 3 exactly.
- 5 Repeat meas 3, but come up on R on ct 4 (L free).

SQUAT-TURNS

- 1-2 Repeat meas 1-2 of Squats, but on ct 4, meas 2, come up on both ft (hop L, R, L fwd, R back; Lx, Rx, squat, rise).
- 3 Jumping up onto both ft while turning 1 time to L (CCW) (ct 1); land in place (ct 2); squat as in squat variation (ct 3); come up onto both ft (ct 4).
- 4 Repeat meas 3, but turn R (CW) 1 time.
- 5 Repeat meas 3, but come up with wt on R (L free) on ct 4.

Note: Generally the dance is danced by doing the Introduction as described (getting up the courage), then the Basic for a long time. The Break-Away is then used to prepare for Squats and as a rest step before Squat-Turns. At the point where the Break-Away begins, through the Squats and Squat-Turns, 1 hard minute of dancing is as much as a truly good dancer would last. Any more is a case of SADO-MACEDONIANISMOS

Presented by Steve Kotansky