

SZANYI KÖRVERBUNK  
(Hungary)

The Szanyi Körverbunk is a men's circle verbunk (recruiting) dance from the village of Szany, in the western part of Rábaköz and of Hungary as well.

The changes of figures are called by the "hej-legendy," who shouts "hej!" before a new step is to be done. The sequence is predetermined, but not the number of times a given step is done. (For the purpose of learning the dance, however, each step is described below as having a fixed number of repetitions.)

The set structure does not mean that the dance is the same in all the villages of the region. It is practiced in small groups, village by village, or even in "lads' groups" within a village. Each group strives for individuality in the figures and sequence of their dance. The learning of the verbunk played a very important role in the dance life of Rábaköz. Practice during the months preceding the yearly patronal festival of a certain village was taken very seriously. Then the performance of the verbunk took place at the fair during the festival, for the enjoyment and judgment of the crowd. Any dancer making a mistake had to pay a penalty afterwards.

Pronunciation: SAWN-yee KOOR-vair-boonk

Record: "Folk Dances and Folk Music of Hungary," Folkraft LP-40, side A, band 1. 4/4 meter.

Formation: M individually in a circle (or line), facing ctr. Stand a little closer than normal (dancers will start dance by backing away into proper places).

Steps: Bemérés (Measuring-in): (2 meas). Start with ft together, knees bent. Straighten knees and extend arms straight fwd, palms more or less facing, R hand slightly higher (ct 1); bend knees and elbows, bringing hands closer to body but still around chest level (ct 2); straighten knees and clap hands in front (ct 3); bend knees again (ct 4). Straighten knees and clap hands in front (ct 1); bend knees and clap hands in front (ct 2); straighten knees and clap in front (ct 3); bend knees (ct 4).  
Every figure of the dance will be introduced by this "Measuring-in" step.

Meas

Pattern

1-3

INTRODUCTION

After some words of greeting, a 3-meas musical introduction is heard. Stand in place for the first two meas. On meas 3: Run bkwd three steps R,L,R to form a larger circle (cts 1,2,3); click L to R (ct 4); with ft together, bend knees (ct &).

SZANYI KÖRVERBUNK (continued)I. BOKÁZÓ-FORDULÁSSAL (Click with turn)

- 1-2 Do one Measuring-in step.  
 3 L fist on waist, R hand above head level. In place, turn 1/4 CW with two steps L,R (cts 1,2); close L to R with a small heel click (ct 3); hold (ct 4). End facing 1/4 to the R.  
 4 Repeat action of meas 3 with opp ftwk and direction (but hands remain in same pos as before). End facing ctr.  
 5-8 Repeat action of meas 3-4 twice (three times in all).  
 9-16 Repeat action of meas 1-8 with opp ftwk, handwork and direction.

II. BERUGÓS (Kick in)

- 1-2 Do one Measuring-in step. On ct 4, meas 2, step heavily onto L ft in place, raising R lower leg diag bkwd R.  
 3 Hop on L in place, kicking R leg fwd across in front of L, straightening knee (ct 1); leap onto R sdwd to R, kicking L lower leg to L, L knee bent and turned in (ct 2); click L to R (ct 3); bend knees (ct 4).  
 4-9 Repeat action of meas 1-3 twice.  
 10-18 Repeat action of meas 1-9 with opp ftwk and direction.

III. CSAPOS (Slap)

- 1-2 Do one Measuring-in step.  
 3 Hop on L in place, while slapping inner side of R boot top with R hand, in front (ct 1); leap onto R sdwd to R, kicking L lower leg to L, knee bent and turned in (ct 2); click L to R (ct 3); bend knees (ct 4).  
 4-9 Repeat action of meas 1-3 twice.  
 10-18 Repeat action of meas 1-9 with opp ftwk, handwork and direction.

IV. HOSSZÚ FUTÓ (Long running)

- 1-2 Do one Measuring-in step.  
 3 Straighten knees while extending R arm straight up and snapping fingers (ct 1); bend knees and bring arm down (ct 2); straighten knees while extending L arm straight up and snapping fingers (ct 3); bend knees again (ct 4).  
 4 Do a small hop on R, raising L leg in front, knee bent, and slapping inner side of L boot top with L hand (ct 1); step on L in place, with accent (ct 2); do a small hop on L, raising R leg in front, knee bent, and slapping inner side of R boot top with R hand (ct 3); turning to face diag R, run fwd on R in LOD (ct 4).  
 5 Continuing in LOD, run fwd on L (ct 1); step on R in LOD, turning to face ctr and swinging L leg out to side (ct 2); click L to R (ct 3); with ft together and parallel, bend knees (ct 4).  
 6-20 Repeat meas 1-5 three times (four in all).

Repeat dance from beginning, without the introduction.

SZANYI KÖRVERBUNK (continued)

Note: The dance figures do not follow the musical phrase. If the above sequence is followed, the claps and shouts of "hej" will not correspond to those heard on the record. For this version of the dance, the call "hej" will come on the first ct of the Measuring-in step of a new figure or new direction except during the figure with the 1/4 turns (figure I). Here, a call is needed to signal the end of the 1/4 turns, so the call is made on ct 1 of the last 1/4 turn; then, since this signals the start of a new figure or direction as well, it is not necessary to make the call again on the following Measuring-in step. Also, during the introduction, the call is made on ct 4, meas 2, to start the dance.

Presented by Kálmán and Judith Magyar