

More Notes on Macedonian Dance Styles

Because Macedonia is divided into 4 parts, it has many different styles of dancing. Each part has been influenced by its neighbor.

1. In general, if the dance is slow, hand hold is W; if the dance is fast, hand hold is V
2. In general, feet-leg movement on lifts, is open with slight bend.
3. Always, men's movements are flashy, women's movements are subdued. Some of this is changing currently, especially in the USA.
4. Always, with open circle dances, everyone faces center, never turn dance away from circle.
5. Slow dances, because of the long time between notes, are usually danced with embellishments such as lifts or chukches. Modern Macedonian dancers (in the USA) usually do not embellish as much.
6. In Aegean Macedonia, many dances start out slowly and gradually increase in tempo. (Mushkoto, Gaida, Zborskoto)
7. In Vardar Macedonia, the steps are usually bouncy and intricate, such as found in Serbia. (Kopachka)
8. Many of the popular songs in Pirin Macedonia are also popular in Vardar Macedonia.

Alphabets and diacritical marks

You will notice that some dance instructions and notes have diacritical marks over certain letters. It is quite prevalent in folk dance circles to use the alphabet used in Yugoslavia (Yugoslavia) when describing folk dances. This was good to obtain the sounds of the Slavic dialects. Conversely, it is bad if you do not know that this alphabet is being used.

For the purposes of this syllabus, here is a summary of those letters and marks.

J = Y	Š = SH
C = TS	Ž = ZH
Č = CH	

Examples: "Jovan ot selo Čerešnica" would be re-written using the English alphabet as "Yovan ot selo Chereshnitsa" (John from village Chereshnitsa).

"Žalna Majka" would be re-written as "Zhalna Maika" (sad mother).

"Jeni Jol" would be re-written as "Yeni Yol" (a person's name).