

Vodena Rachenitsa – Водена ръченица (Bulgaria)

This “svatbena” (wedding) rachenitsa (râčenica) is from village of Orizovo, near Stara Zagora, Thrace region. Source: Petrov, Krasimir 1995, *Bulgarski Narodni Tantsi ot Trakia* [Bulgarian Traditional Dances from Thrace], Sofia: Prosveta.

The style and combination of steps are representative for Thrace weddings’ rachenitsas and could be observed in field records from past decades. “Vodena” comes from “vodya” [to lead], indicating that this ruchenitsa is performed as a line dance. During the wedding the brother-in-law leads the dancers—men and women—from semicircle to snail moving right, then unreels the snail and develops different figures, inspired by his imagination and dance skills.

Pronunciation: VOH-deh-nah Râh-čeh-NEE-tсах.

Music: *Shto Mi E Merak* CD (*Longing for You*), 2012. Band 2: *Angelino Malay Mome*.

7/8 meter (QQS)

Formation: Open circle; hands joined in W-pos, elbows bent; hands pump all the time, natural corresponding to dance steps.

Steps & Styling: Soft steps; the accent is on the first beat of the 7/8 (QQS) meter by bending the knee.

Meas

Pattern

FIGURE I: includes 4 simple dance combinations in 12 measures (4+4+2+2).

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Step on R—fwd-R LOD (ct 1); step on L—fwd-R LOD (ct 2) ; step on R—fwd-R LOD (ct 3). |
| 2 | Step on L fwd, facing ctr (ct 1); step on R fwd, facing ctr (ct 2); step on L fwd, facing ctr (ct 3). |
| 3 | Repeat meas 1. |
| 4 | Step on L ft to L, facing ctr (ct 1); R ft steps to L ft (ct 2), step on L ft to the L (ct 3). |
| 5 | Jumping step on R ft to the R (ct 1); cross-step on L in front of the R, R is above the ground (ct 2); step on R (ct 3). |
| 6 | Repeat meas 5 with opp. fwrk. |
| 7 | Step on R bkwd (ct 1); step on L bkwd (ct 2); step on R bkwd (ct 3). |
| 8 | Step on L bkwd (ct 1 & 2); step on R bkwd (ct 3). |

- 9 Jumping step on L to R, R is above the ground (ct 1); step on R—fwd-R LOD (ct 2); step on L (ct 3).
- 10 Step on R to R (ct 1 & 2); jumping step on L, L takes the wt (ct 3).
- 11 Step on R to fwd-R (ct 1 & 2); hop on R in place (ct 3).
- 12 Repeat meas 11 with opp. fwrk.

Presented by Daniela Ivanova



© 2016