

# LAZARSKO MAŠKO ORO

(Macedonia)

*Lazarsko Maško Oro* (Men's St. Lazarus Day Dance) comes from Vevčani in Western Macedonia near the Struga on Lake Ohrid. It is traditionally danced by boy's and young men on St. Lazarus Day (the Saturday before Palm Sunday of the Eastern Orthodox calendar). It is in a 9/8-9/16 meter and played on the *Zurli and Tapan* (Zurlas (shalm/oboe) and large cylindrical drum. The dancer's often hold mock swords in their right hands. I learned the dance from young men in a hotel bar in Struga.

Recording: Workshop CD/thumb drive

Formation: Open circle with a "W" hold or L hand hold L neighbor's belt and R hand hold 2 ft wooden sword up to R side at head level.

Music: 9/8 (2-2-2-1-2) (S-S-S-q-S)

Dancer's Cts (1-2-3-4-5) or (1-2-3-4-&))

Meas: Basic Step in Place

\*Note: The rhythmical pattern of the ftwk can be used to move in many directions.

- 1 Facing center with weight on Rft, lift on Rft and bring Lft up in front (knee bent) (ct 1); step Lft in place beside Rft (ct 2); step Rft fwd twd ctr (ct 3); step Lft back to place (ct 4); step Rft back beside Lft (ct & or 5);
- 2-4 Repeat action of meas 1 of Basic Step in Place;

### Grapevine to R

- 1 Turning to face R of ctr, lift on Rft and bring Lft up and in front (knee bent) (ct 1); step Lft across and in front of Rft (ct 2); turning to face ctr, step Rft to R side (ct 3); turning to face slightly L of ctr, step Lft quickly across and behind Rft (ct 4); turning to face ctr, step Rft to R side (ct & or 5);
- 2-4 Repeat action of meas 1 of Grapevine to R continuing to travel to R;

### Travel L with Hold

- 1 Facing L of center and travelling to L, lift on Rft and bring Lft up and in front (knee Bent) (ct 1); step Lft fwd to L (ct 2); step Rft fwd (ct 3); step Lft fwd (ct 4); step Rft fwd (ct & or 5);
- 2 With wt on Rft, turn to face ctr and bring L knee up and in front (knee bent) (ct 1); hold position (ct 2); swing Lft back (brush-like but not touching ground ) (ct 3); čukče (raise and lift L heel) in place (ct 4) kick Lft fwd and up in front slightly (again brush-like but not touching ground) (ct & or 5);
- 3-8 Repeat action of meas 1-2 of Travel L with Hold 3 more times (four times in all);

**Meas:**

**Fwd and Back with Squat or Lift**

- 1** Facing ctr, repeat action (ftwk) of Basic Step but move fwd twd ctr;
- 2** Lift on Rft in place and bring L knee up and in front (ct 1); step Lft in place (ct 2); squat down onto both feet (full knee bend knees apart) (ct 3); step Rft in place (ct 4); step Lft in place (ct & or 5);
- 3-4** Backing out from ctr, reverse action (direction and ftwk) of meas 1-2 of Fwd and Back with Squat or Lift;
- 5-8** Repeat action of meas 1-4 of meas 1-4 of Twd and Back with Squat or Lift;  
\*Note: Instead of Squat on ct 3 of meas 2 and meas 4, lift on Lft and bring R knee up and in front with R knee bent. (cts 4-5 remain as written).

Repeat the dance from the beginning.

**Grapevine to R**

- 1-8** Repeat action of Grapevine to R but 8 times in all;

**3 meas Crossing Step/Turns**

- 1** Facing R of ctr and moving fwd, repeat action of Basic Step;
- 2** Step Lft across and in front of Rft (ct 1); step Rft back to place (ct 2); hop/lift on Rft and lift Lft up and in front (knee bent) (ct 3); hop/lift on Rft again (ct 4); step Lft in place (ct & or 5);
- 3** Reverse action (ftwk) of meas 2 of 3 Meas Crossing Step/Turns;  
\*Variation: during meas 2 and 3 above, dancers may add turns (CCW to the L during meas 2 and CW to R during meas 3). These are full 360 degree turns and done during the two hops of cts 3-4). Traditionally dancers will dance to meet an opposing dancer and strike "sticks" (mock swords) on ct 3 of meas 2 (beginning of CCW turn). Dancers may also alternate turning steps with crossing steps while moving forward in an open circle. Dance these steps until the end of the music.

Presented by Stephen Kotansky