

## MOS QAJ

(Korça, Albania)

*Mos Qaj* (Don't Cry) is simple 4 measure *Pogonishtë*-type dance from the Korça Region of south-eastern Albania. Many years ago, I taught essentially the same dance and called it *Koritsa (Korça)* and /or *Valle nga Komispol*. *Mos Qaj* (Mohs Chaj) is a popular song from the region. I've chosen one version by the famous Korça singer *Eli Fara* as well a more "wedding-band" version. I learned it a party in Korçe from Blerta Belliu and Bardhi Pojani, leaders of the *Ansambli Artistik "Skënderbeu" of Korça, Albania*.

Recording: Workshop CD

Formation: Open circle, "W" handhold

Music: 2/4

### Meas:

- 1 Facing slightly R of center, step Lft fwd twd R and turn to face center (ct 1); touch Rft twd center (ct 2); \*Note: Rft may touch across and over Lft (ct 2) or even step/rock onto Rft (ct 2); rock back onto Lft in place (ct &);
- 2 Step Rft back (ct 1); turning to face R of center, step Lft back to L (ct 2); step Rft fwd to R (ct &);
- 3 Facing and moving to R, step Lft fwd (ct 1); step Rft fwd (ct 2); step Lft fwd (ct &);
- 4 Turning to face center, step Rft to R side (ct 1); step Lft across and behind Rft to R (ct 2); turning to face slightly R of center, step Rft fwd to R (ct &).

\*Note: Lead dancer may turn under second dancer's R hand-held scarf/kerchief or turn in and lead from a parallel position to second dancer. Also, dance steps may become livelier by adding a "hitch-hop" lift before first count of each measure.

Presented by Stephen Kotansky