

NESTINARSKO HORO
(Thrace, Bulgaria)

Source: This dance is from the village of Bulgari, in the Strandzha Mts., Thrace, in southeastern Bulgaria. It is part of the fire dance ritual. An old pagan ritual, it is supposed to have been brought from Asia Minor to the Balkans by the Greeks. To the pagan the fire purified, helped with fertility, and rid the body of bad spirits. As the Balkans became Christianized, the fire ceremonial shifted its rationale to celebrating a miraculous saving of religious icons from burning. Whether this is historical truth or legend, in any case, each June 2 and 3, in tribute to Saint Elena and Saint Constantine, those thought responsible for the miracle, a festival would be held in which the entire village participated. At the end of the festival this dance would be done.

Pronunciations: nes-tee-NAR-sko ho-RO 2/4 meter
Recording: Balkan Arts MK-6G or Village Dances from the Balkans
Formation: Mixed line, "W" hand hold.

Meas Cts

Pattern

INTRODUCTION – Long drum introduction, followed by 2 chords on the bagpipe. Dance begins with the next drum beats.

Figure 1

- | | | |
|---|-------------|--|
| 1 | 1
2 | Moving fwd on the R diag, facing slightly R of ctr, step R ft fwd.
Continuing in the same direction, step fwd L ft. |
| 2 | 1
&
2 | Continue on R diag, step fwd R ft.
Step fwd L ft.
Step fwd R ft, turning slightly to face ctr. |
| 3 | 1
&
2 | Backing out from the ctr: step bkwd L ft.
Step bkwd R ft.
Step bkwd L ft. |

Figure 2

- | | | |
|-------|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 & 2 | | Same as Figure 1, Meas 1 & 2 |
| 3 | 1
&
2 | Step L in place
Rock
Step on R |
| 4 | | Repeat Figure 2, Meas 3 |
| 5 | | Repeat Figure 1, Meas 3 |

Presented by Martin Koenig