

OI MARIYO (Pirin, Bulgaria)

Oi Mariyo (Oŭ Mapuŭo) is from the Pirin (South-western) region of Bulgaria. It can be found in the area between the towns of Razlog and Petrich in villages such as Kapatovo and Marikostinovo. It is also known as *Starckata* and is danced by men and women alike though often segregated with the men at the front of the line/open circle and women at the left end of the line/circle. It is traditionally danced to *Zurna/Zurla and Tapan* accompaniment.

Recording: Workshop CD

Formation: Open circle with "belt-hold" (*Na lesa*)

Music: 7/8 -7/16 (3-2-2) (S-q-q)

Dancers cts: 1-2-3

Meas:

Step I

- 1 Facing slightly R of ctr, step Rft fwd (ct 1); step Lft across and in front of Rft (cts 2-3);
- 2 Turning to face ctr, step Rft to R side and slightly back (ct 1); turning to face slightly L of ctr, bounce slightly on Rft and touch Lft fwd (whole of ft) (cts 2-3);
- 3 Backing up to R, step Lft back and behind Rft (ct 1); step Rft backwards to R (cts 2-3);
- 4 Step Lft back and behind Rft (ct 1); begin to turn to face R of ctr and touch Rft fwd (cts 2-3); *Note: during "touch-step" (meas 2 & 4), some dancers close touching ft to the supporting ft or even lift the free ft up slightly in front.

Step II

- 1 As the tempo speeds up, steps become running steps; run-step Rft to R (ct 1); run-step Lft fwd to R (cts 2-3);
- 2 Turning to face ctr, jump onto both feet together (may be slightly apart) (ct 1); hop Rft in place (slightly back) and lift Lft up slightly in front (cts 2-3);
- 3 Step Lft back and "cut-hook" Rft in front of L shin (R knee is bent) (ct 1); turning to face R of ctr, step Rft fwd (cts 2-3);
- 4 Run-step Lft fwd to R (ct 1); lift on Lft and raise Rft up and fwd (R knee bent) and kick Rft fwd and down (cts 2-3); *Note: Some dancers replace the first "run-step" of meas 1 with a "hitch-hop" land on both feet for ct 1 of meas 1 (hop on Lft on ct "uh" before ct 1, land on both feet apart (ct 1).

Step III

- 1 Facing R of ctr, "hitch-hop" on Lft on ct "uh" before ct 1; land on both feet with Rft Fwd to R (ct 1); leap slightly onto Lft fwd to R (cts 2-3);
- 2 Turning to face ctr, step quickly onto L heel in front of Rft (ct "uh" before ct 1); quickly step Lft behind Rft (ct 1); *Note: this is a heel-led "ker-Pluhnk". Step Rft fwd slightly and to R and bring Lft up and behind Rft calf/knee (cts 2-3);
- 3 Step Lft back and "cut-hook" Rft in front of Lft shin (ct 1); turning to face R of ctr, step Rft to R (cts 2-3);

- 4 Step Lft across and in front of Rft (ct 1); hop on Lft in place and bring Rft around and in front (R knee extended) (cts 2-3);
- 5 Facing L of ctr, step R heel across and in front of Lft (ct "uh" before ct 1); step Lft behind Rft (ct 1); *Note: This is a heel-led "ker-Pluhnk". Step Rft across and in front of Lft (cts 2-3); *Note: One lead dancer (as a personal variation) substitutes 7 quick "heel-led" steps (Rft crossing to the L) in place of the "ker-Pluhnk"-step.
- 6 Turning to face ctr but moving slightly L and back, step Lft back (ct 1); step Rft back (cts 2-3);
- 7 Step Lft back and "cut-hook" Rft in front of Lft shin (ct 1); turning to face R of ctr, step Rft fwd to R(cts 2-3);
- 8 Run/step Lft fwd to R (ct 1); lift on Lft and raise Rft up and fwd (R knee bent) and kick Rft fwd and down (cts 2-3);

Step IV

- 1 Moving diag R twd the ctr, step Rft fwd (ct 1); step Lft fwd (cts2-3);
- 2 Jump onto both feet (together) fwd to R (ct 1); lift on Rft and bring Lft up (cts 2-3);
- 3 Facing slightly L of ctr, step Lft back slightly to R (ct 1); step Rft back to R (cts 2-3);
- 4 Step Lft back on ct "uh" before ct 1, step Rft beside Lft (ct 1); step Lft in place (ct 2-3); * Note this is "ker-Pluhnk" step and can be turned around to be: step "ker-Pluhnk" (cts 1 & 2).

Presented by Stephen Kotansky