

PREŠEVKA (Kosovo/Macedonia)

Preševka is also known as *Vallja e Preshevës* (dance from Preševo) is an interesting variation on the *Krsteno* ("crossing") -type dances of the area around Gjilane, Preševo, and the Vardar River region of Macedonia (*Povardarije*). Many of these *Krsteno* ("crossing") dances are 5 measures (or 10 measures depending on how one counts i.e. 2/4 or 4/4, 7/8 or 7/16), and progress to the right. This dance, however, is 8 measures long because it "backtracks" (reverses) the travel step which is indicated by a particular melody/rhythmic pattern in the music.

Recording: Workshop CD

Formation: Line or open circle with "T" shoulder hold (men) or "W" arm position

Music: 4/4

Meas: *Note: Dance starts with the Travel-step musical (melodic/rhythmic "signature"!

- 1 Travel-step to R: Facing R of ctr, touch ball of Rft or kick Rft low while momentarily turning to face ctr (ct 1); turning back to face R of ctr, step Rft fwd (ct &); step Lft across and in front of Rft to R (ct 2); repeat action of cts 1,&,2 (cts 3,&,4);
- 2 Touch/kick Rft as above (ct 1); turning to face ctr, step Rft to R side (ct 2); step Lft fwd twd ctr (ct 3); step Rft back to place turning to face slightly L of ctr (ct 4);
- 3-4 Travel-step to L: Reverse action (ftwk and direction) of meas 1-2;
- 5 Facing ctr, lift on Lft bring R knee up and fwd (ct 1); step Rft to R side (ct 2); lift L knee up and fwd and lead Lft to a position in front of R shin (ct 3); "dip"/lower on R leg/ft in this position (ct 4);
- 6 Reverse action (ftwk and direction) of meas 5;
- 7 Repeat action of meas 5;
- 8 Lift on Rft (ct 1); turning to face R of ctr, step Lft back to L (ct 2); step Rft slightly out and diag to R (ct 3); step Lft across and in front of Rft (ct 4).

*Note: As music speeds up (or during slow music), measures 5-7 may be replaced "crossing" steps i.e.: Lift on Lft (ct 1); step Rft to R side (ct 2); step Lft fwd twd ctr (ct 3); step Rft back to place (ct 4); and so on (meas 6 & &). This "crossing" step is used during fast music with hands brought down to a "V" position.

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