

## VALLE BERATCHE KORCHARE (Korçë, Albania)

*Valle Beratche Korchare* is a 2 meas dance from South-eastern Albania in an interesting rhythm which approximates 25/16 but is more easily understood as 7 dancer's beats. I learned this version in Korçë from Bardhi Pojani. The other variations were added later as learned from village performance groups, Genci Kastrati, and as observed at a wedding.

Recording: Seminar CD

Formation: Open circle/line with "W" pos

Music: 25/16 ♩. ♩ ♩ ♩. ♩ ♩ ♩. ♩ ♩ ♩ ♩

Dancer's Cts 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Meas: Basic

- 1 Facing center, rock onto Lft to L (ct 1); rock onto Rft to R (ct 2); bring Lft across and low in front of Rft (almost gliding) no wt (ct 3); step onto Lft across and in front of Rft (ct 4); Step Rft to R with slight accent (ct 5); bounce on Rft and bring R knee up slightly in front (ct 6); step Lft across and in front of Rft (ct 7);
- 2 Turning to face L of center and backing up to R, step onto ball of Rft backwards (ct 1); continuing to back up, step ball of Lft back (ct 2); Step ball of Rft back (ct 3); Hold (ct 4); Step Lft behind Rft and bend knees (plié) (ct 5); bounce on Lft and turn to face center (ct 6); step Rft to R (ct 7).

Variation I on meas 2: Crossing

Facing center, step Rft across and in front of Lft (ct 1); step Lft to L (ct 2); step Rft across and in front of Lft (ct 3); lift on Rft and bring Lft slightly up and behind R calf (ct 4); repeat action of cts 5-7 of meas 2 above (cts 5-7). Dancer's may turn CCW to the L in place during the last 3 cts of meas .

Variation II on meas 2: "Twizzle"

Facing center, step Rft (leading with ball of foot) behind Lft and "twizzle"/twist L heel to R (L knee to L) with wt on ball of Lft (ct 1); step Lft slightly in front of Rft (L knee returns to pos slightly R) (ct 2); repeat action of ct 1 ("twizzle"/twist) and begin to bring Lft fwd and around to back (ct 3); bring Lft around and in back of Rft and bounce/"Čukče" slightly on Rft (ct 4); step Lft behind Rft (ct 5); bounce on Lft (ct 6); Step Rft to R (ct 7).

"Men's" Step (4 Meas)

- 1 Touch Lft to L side (ct 1); hold (ct 2); step Lft across and in front of Rft (ct 3); bounce on Lft and lead Rft fwd and through (ct 4); Step Rft fwd to R (ct 5); bounce/"Čukče" on Rft and "bicycle" kick Lft fwd, up, and around (ct 6); Step Lft fwd to R (ct 7);
- 2 Repeat action of meas 2 of Basic above (Genci added a little "Hitch-hop" on Lft before step Rft back on ct 3);

**Valle Beratche Korchare cont.**

- 3** Facing ctr, touch Lft out to L side (ct 1); hold (ct 2); step Lft fwd to ctr (accentuated) (ct 3); lift on Lft and bring Rft up behind L calf/knee (ct 4); step Rft back behind Lft and begin bring Lft around and behind (ct 5); bounce slightly on Rft continuing to bring Lft around and behind Rft (ct 6); Step Lft behind Rft (ct 7);
- 4** Reverse action (ftwk) of meas 3 above.

**5**

**6**

**Presented by Stephen Kotansky**