

VARNENSKI KJUČEK

Варненски Кючек
(Dobrudža - Bulgaria)

This dance type comes from the Varna region on the Black Sea coast. It is known under various names, *Varnensko Horo*, *Gagauško*, *Varnenski Tanc* etc. This version is typical of the variations among the "Gagauzi" (Christian Turks) and shows a strong Turkish influence as well as general characteristics of other dances from the Black Sea region.

Pronunciation: VAHR-nen-skee Kyoo-check
Music: Yves Moreau CD
Rhythm: 9/8 counted here as 2-2-2-3 or 1,2,3,4 or quick-quick-quick-slow.
The actual dance is mostly syncopated with a S-Q-S accent.
Formation: Mixed lines, hands joined in "W" pos. Face slightly R of ctr, wt on L.
Style: Small and light bouncy steps. Slight knee bend. Proud.

Meter: 9/8

Pattern

1-8 Introduction . No action.

1. Travel step

1 Step on R in LOD (1) pause (2) step on L (3) step on R (4)
2 Step on L in LOD (1) pause (2) step on R (3) step on L (4)
3-4 Repeat pattern of meas 1-2
5 Facing ctr, step on R to R (1) pause (2) cross on L behind R (3)
step on R in place (4)
6 Repeat pattern of meas 5, with reverse dir and ftwrk
7-8 Repeat pattern of meas 5-6
9-16 Repeat pattern of meas 1-8

2. Finger snapping variation

1 Snap fingers (thumb & major) of both hands. L arm is extended sideways to L and R hand is closer to body, elbow bent (1), hold (2), snap fingers again, R arm goes up (approx. in front of forehead) (3), snap fingers again, R arm continues upward motion and moves slightly to R (4)
2-4 Same action as meas 1, but arms continue motion to R and R arm becomes the one extended out and L one closer to body. Complete « clockwork » motion takes 4 meas.
5-8 Repeat pattern of meas 1-4

Footwork during Fig. 2:

1 Step onto R slightly fwd with marked « dip and roll » action (1), continue rolling action upward (2), step on L in place (3), step on R in place (4)
2 Repeat pattern of meas 1 with opp ftwrk
3-8 Repeat pattern of meas 1-2, three more times

3. Turning alone, to ctr and back

- 1 Moving fwd twd ctr, step on R (1) pause (2), step on L (3), step on R (4)
 2 Still moving fwd, step on L (1) pause (2), step on R (3), step on L (4)
 3 Letting go of hand hold, step on R to R (1) pause (2), cross L ft in front of R ft, body turning to face slightly R (3), step on R in place (4)
 4 Step on L to L, doing a half-turn to face out (1) pause (2) step on R next to L (3) step on L next to R (4)
Arm movements (for meas. 3): L arm begins to move to R in front of body while R arm is extended straight out to R (1) pause (2), L arm gets closer to body and slightly downward (3) pause (4)
Arm movements (for meas. 4) both hands return to W position (1-4), join hands with neighbours after turn is completed.
 5-8 Same pattern as in meas 1-4 but in opp direction (heading out to finish facing ctr on final half turn).
 9-16 Repeat pattern of meas 1-8

Change figures as above, or leader can call change of figure. The above figures often develop into an improvisational form at weddings and parties around Varna.

Note: With this recording, when the music speeds up during Fig. 3 (to the ctr and back), do meas 1-8 again for a total of 3 times till end of music.

Presented by Yves Moreau