

KARAKAČANSKO HORO

Bulgaria

This dance is named after, and originally performed by the *Sarakatsani*, also called *Karakacani* (Каракачани) in Bulgaria.

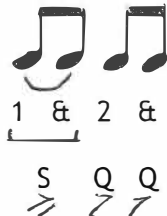
The *Sarakatsani* are an ethnic Greek population group (*Σαρακατσάνοι*), who were traditionally shepherds, native to Greece, with a smaller presence in neighboring, southern Albania and the Republic of Macedonia. The vast majority of the *Sarakatsani* have currently abandoned the nomadic way of life and have been urbanized to a significant degree.

There have been various theories about the origin of the name *Sarakatsani*. According to the most popular one, the name derives from the Turkish *kaçan*, meaning “black” or “fugitive” The Ottomans also use the Turkish word *karakaçan* (from *kara*) in reference to those people who were dressed in black and were fleeing in the mountains during the Ottoman occupation of Greece. According to another theory, the name derives from the village of *Sakaretsi*, the supposed homeland of the *Sarakatsani*.

ORIGIN & STYLE: This original variant of Karakacansko Horo is very popular at the yearly Karakachanski Festival and Greek New Year’s celebrations in Bulgaria. More recently the dance is also been adopted in Bulgaria in the so called *Horoteka* - repertoire. The dance shows similarities with the authentic greek dances Itia and Sirtos. The performance style is fluent with small and bouncy steps.

METER

2/4



MUSIC:

CD “Dances & Songs from Pirinska Makedonia - JL2016.01CD
Presented by Jaap Leegwater
Track 9 - perf. by orch. arr. & cond. by Nikolaj Paskalov
Track 10 - perf. by orch. ANPT Kutev, arr. & cond. Georgi Andreëv

FORMATION:

Half- or open circle. Hands held in W-position

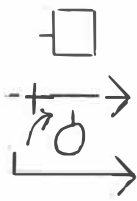
INTRODUCTION:

8 bars instrumental introduction

The dance consists of 3 variations (parts) and are being alternated at the indication of the line leader

DANCE DESCRIPTION

DIRECTION MEAS CT PART 1 "STAMP & TRAVELING"



1	& S Q Q	Facing RLOD, lift R heel behind stamp R ft, taking wt, next to L ft step on L ft bkwd LOD step on R ft sdwd R
2	S Q Q	step on L ft, across in front of R ft step on R ft sdwd R step on L ft behind R ft
3	S Q Q	step on R ft sdwd R step on L ft in front of R step back on R ft
4	S Q Q	step on L ft sdwd L step on R behind L step on L to the L, turning face RLOD, raising L heel behind



PART 2 "CLAP"

Same as Part 1, with a clap in both hands in front of the body on ct 1 of meas 1

PART 3 "IN PLACE"



1	S Q Q	Facing enter, dancing in place, step & bounce on R ft, kicking L ft fwd-low (starting a reel sdwd-bkwd) step on L ft slightly bkwd step on R ft next to R ft R
2	S Q Q	step on L ft in front of R ft, arcing R ft fwd sdwd-fwd step on R ft in front of L ft step on Lft slightly sdwd L
3		as meas 1
4	S Q Q	step on L ft slightly fwd, lifting R ft off the floor stamp R ft next to L ft lift R heel behind



Dance description & presentation by Jaap Leegwater 2016