

RAZVIVAJ DOBRO
(Bulgaria)

Razvivaj Dobro freely translates into "may life unfold well" and can be considered a wish for fertility, growth and prosperity. It is a dance song associated with local Lent customs from the Rhodope Mountain Region in Southern Bulgaria.



Razvivaj Dobro is a Horovodna Pesen (a song accompanying a dance) and belongs to the category of seasonal folk songs. The song is about young budding life, both literally in the form of flowers, trees and crops and figuratively in the form of a blooming romance. This is a popular theme of many Bulgarian spring songs and customs and is performed to announce the approaching spring and new life. Plans or announcements for marriages are often made during this time of year, especially on Lazarovden, St. Lazarus day, which is Palm Sunday.

Razvivaj Dobro is sung and danced exclusively by women and is part of a larger repertoire of spring rituals, symbolic customs, songs and dances. According to an old tradition, the horovod is headed by a mother who is still nursing a baby and does not have any dead children. This again is symbolic for unfolding life, fertility and growth.

Learned and notated by Jaap Leegwater from Danja Djankova in Smoljan, Rhodope region, Bulgaria in the winter of 1979.

Pronunciation:

Music: LP/Cassette "Folk Dances from Bulgaria" Vol 4.
JL 1988.02 Side B/1 7/8 or 8/8 meter

Rhythm: 7/8  or 8/8 
S Q Q S Q S
1 2 3 1 2 3

The dance is notated here in 7/8.

Style: Feminine, subdued and graceful.

Formation: Half - or open circle. Hands at sides in "V" pos.

Meas Pattern
8 meas INTRODUCTION

Part 1
1 Facing and moving in LOD, step on R ft bending R knee (ct 1); step back on L ft (ct 2); step with emphasis on R ft in demi-plie (ct 3) } Balance
2 Step on L ft (ct 1); step on R ft (ct 2); fall onto L ft next to R, taking wt off R (ct 3).
3 Big step on R ft (ct 1); big step on L ft (cts 2-3).
4-24 Repeat meas 1-3 seven more times.

Part 2 - Steps
1 Facing and moving twd ctr, step on R ft slightly bending R knee (ct 1); small step back on L ft (ct 2); step on R ft (ct 3) } Balance
2 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk.
3-4 Repeat meas 1-2, making 1/2 CW turn in place on meas 4.
5-8 Now facing and moving out, repeat meas 1-4.

FOLK DANCE CAMP - 1988

RAZVIVAJ DOBRO (cont'd)

Part 2 - Hands

As in the dance Minka, only a little bit higher.

Starting pos: Hold both hands in front of you at face level with palms facing in and fingers close -

- 1 Cup both hands by moving the fingers twd you (ct 1); turn both hands, palms first face each other, out (ct 2); extend both arms to the R side up like in a pushing movement, R hand first followed by the L hand that also stays somewhat behind (ct 3). Look in the direction of the hand movement.
- 2 Repeat meas 1 with opp direction.
- 3 Repeat meas 1.
- 4 As in meas 2, however, slightly faster so that there is a hold on cts 2-3. Look away from the direction of the hand movement.
- 5-16 Repeat meas 1-4, three more times.

Part 3

Hands down at sides in "V" pos.

- 1 Facing ctr, moving diag R fwd, lift on L ft (ct ah); step on R ft (ct 1); step on L ft across behind R (ct 2); step on R ft (ct 3).
- 2 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 3 Turn once around CW with the following steps: Big step on R ft (ct 1); low hop on R ft (ct 2); low hop on R ft (ct 3).
- 4 Facing ctr, moving bkwd, step on L ft (ct 1); two low hops on L ft (cts 2, 3).
- 5 Step R, L, R (cts 1, 2, 3).
- 6 Step L, R, L (cts 1, 2, 3).
- 7 Step on R ft sdwd R, bending R knee (ct 1); step on L ft behind R (ct 2); step on R ft across in front of L (ct 3) } Yemenite-step
- 8 Repeat meas 7 with opposite footwork.
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.

Repeat the whole dance once more from the beginning

Ending:

Meas 16: Step on L ft sdwd L (ct 1); step and close R ft next to L (ct 2); hold (ct 3)

RAZVIVAJ DOBRO

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| 1. RAZVIVAJ, DOBRO, POVIVAJ
OREH SI LISTI RAZVIVA | May life unfold well and blossom
Like leaves on the walnut tree |
| 2. POD OREHINE SEDJAHA
TERZII, DOBRO, ZLATARI | Under the walnut tree were sitting
skilled tailors and goldsmiths |
| 3. TERZII SEDLA SIEHA
ZLATARI JUSDI LEEHA | The tailors were sowing a saddle
The goldsmiths were laying a bridle |
| 4. ZA NEVJASTA SA GOTVEHA
DORI DOVEDE SVATOVE | Making everything ready for the bride
And the matchmakers to come. |

Notes by Jaap Leegwater

Presented by Jaap Leegwater