

## Vallja E Osman Takës

(Southern Albanian)

This dance is also known as *Osman Takas* (*Samandakis* in Greek). These steps are based on steps from the Korce region of Southern Albania. Kotansky created this particular arrangement.

Pronunciation: VAHL-yah EH OHSS-mahn TAH-kuhs

Music: 7/8 meter *Balkan I 2010 Steve's Dances CD, Band 4*

Formation: Open circle; hands joined in W-pos.

Meas     7/8 meter

Pattern

INTRODUCTION. No action. Start with singing.

### I. STEP I

- 1 Facing R of ctr, lift on L raising R knee up and in front (ct 1); step fwd R (cts 2-3).
- 2 Lift on R raising L knee up and in front (ct 1); step fwd L (cts 2-3).
- 3 Turning to face ctr, lift on L and raise R knee up and in front (ct 1); step R to R (cts 2-3).
- 4 Bring L knee up and in front of R knee (ct 1); hold (cts 2-3).
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 with opp ftwk and direction (to L).

### II. STEP II

- 1 Step R to R (ct 1); step L across in front of R (cts 2-3).
- 2 Step R to R (ct 1); step L crossing behind R (cts 2-3).
- 3 Slight leap onto R to R extending L fwd in front with knee extended, and ft fairly close to floor (ct 1); slowly bring L around and up behind R knee (cts 2-3).
- 4 Lock L ft behind R knee and bend R knee, turning L knee out (ct 1); straighten R knee turning L knee fwd (cts 2-3).
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 with opp ftwk and direction (to L).

### III. STEP III

- 1 Facing R of ctr and moving CCW, step fwd R (ct 1); step L beside R (ct &); step fwd R (cts 2-3).
- 2 Step fwd L (ct 1); step R near L (ct &); step fwd L (cts 2-3).
- 3 Turning to face ctr, step R to R bending R knee and bringing L behind R knee (ct 1); bring L, knee bent, around and in front of R knee (cts 2-3).
- 4 Hold pos with L up and in front of R knee (cts 1-3).
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 with opp ftwk and direction (to L).

## Vallja E Osman Takës — continued

IV. STEP IV

- 1-2 Using the two-step of Step III (R-L-R, L-R-L), moving to R, rotate 360° to R (CW), while arms are held up and out to side at head level.
- 3 Facing ctr (finishing turn), step R to R (ct 1); step L near R (ct &); step R to R (cts 2-3).
- 4 Step fwd on L twd ctr (ct 1); rock back onto R in place (ct 2).
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 with opp ftwk and direction (to L).

Presented by Stephen Kotansky

## Lyrics to "Vallja e Osman Takës"

Osman Resul Taka was a well-known traditional Albanian dancer for whom “Vallja e Osman Takës” (the Dance of Osman Taka) was named. During the mid-19th century Osman was jailed in Yanina for anti-Ottoman activities and was sentenced to death. The folk tradition says that, when asked for his final wish, Osman said: “Let me dance once more before I have to die. Then I will be happy to leave this life.” He danced so beautifully that the local gendarmes of the Ottoman army did not execute him. (But later, he was caught again, and was killed in 1887.)

The song Steve Kotansky used, “Osman Taka,” was sung by Eli Fara on her 2002 CD *Me. Thote. Zemra.*

//Hajde more Osman Taka//	Come on, Osman Taka
//Tarinanina se plasa//	Tarinanina is dying for you
//Qenke more sevdali//	You are very like Don Juan
//S’paska more djale si ti//	There is no other guy like you
//Hajde more Osman Taka//	Come on, Osman Taka
//Eh gushen more se plasa//	Dying for your neck.

Notes: “Tarinanina” in the first verse may be a woman’s name (“Tarina” plus “nina,” which may be a diminutive or may be “filler” syllables). In the second verse, “Qenke” is pronounced “cheng-keh.”