

Ajnzerica (Enzerica)

(Croatia)

This lively dance is from the Croatian region of Zagorje, located in the northwestern part of Croatia, near Zagreb. According to the legends told by old villagers in Marija Bistrica (a town known for pilgrimages to its sanctuary of Marija Bistrica), Gypsy musicians from around the town of Varaždin played Ajnzerica (Enzerica) for church festivities. Local villagers took the dance and music back to their own villages, where it is still danced at weddings and holiday festivities. The dance was researched by Željko Jergan in the village of Mače, near Marija Bistrica in 1979. The circle version of this dance was presented by Željko Jergan at the 1995 Santa Barbara Symposium. The cpl version was presented at workshops in southern California during January of 1996. The name of the dance is a nonsensical word.

Pronunciation: EYEN-seh-ree-tseh

Music: Tape: "Croatian Folk Dances, Vol. I" by Jerry Grčevich, Side A/6; 2/4 meter
 "Skitnice," Side B/4
 CD: "Skitnice," Band 17.

Formation: Individuals in a closed circle, facing ctr. For cpl version, M is to L of ptr.

Steps: Polka: Flat-footed two-steps: small leap onto L (ct 1); step R-L with small running-style steps (cts 2,&). Step alternates. This step can be done moving fwd, bkwd, or turning.

Cpl polka: When turning as a cpl, the upper body bends slightly sdwd L when beg the polka with L ft, and bends sdwd R when beg with R ft. Cpls join in shldr/shldr-blade pos. W hands are on M shldrs, M hands high on W shldr blades. The arms are rounded at shldr level (as if holding a beach ball), W arms are touching M arms.

Jumps: All jumps are flat-footed and done with slightly bent knees.

Styling: When M hands are free, they are low on the hip with fingers fwd, while W hands are on the waist with fingers fwd. Ftwk small, close to floor, and flat-footed.

Meas

Pattern

• INTRODUCTION. None.

FIGURE I

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 1-4 | 8 claps with hands at approx chest level. |
| 5-8 | With hands on hips and facing ctr, do 8 jumps on both ft in place, turning 1/4 R (CW) on each jump (2 per meas). Note: 8 jumps = 2 complete turns. This is optional, if you wish to do 1/2 turns that is OK also. The jumps are heavy, flat-footed with ft slightly apart. |
| 9-12 | Do 8 jumps on both ft in place, turning L (CCW). |
| 13-14 | Facing ctr, do 3 jumps, with accent, on both ft in place (option, turn R once), or stamp R ft 3 times in place without wt (cts 1,2,1); hold (ct 2). |

FIGURE II

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Facing ctr, join hands in V-pos, step on R to R (ct 1); close L to R with wt (ct 2). |
| 2 | Jump onto both ft in place (ct 1); step on L to L (ct 2). |
| 3 | Move R twd L, then step fwd on R twd ctr (cts &-1); close L to R (ct 2). |
| 4 | Step on R to R (ct 1); close L to R (ct 2). |

Ajnzerica (Enzerica)—continued

- 5 Jump onto both ft in place (ct 1); step bkwd on L (ct 2).
 6 Jump bkwd onto R as L closes to R, landing on both ft (ct 1); jump in place on both ft again (ct 2).
 7 Step on R to R (ct 1); close L to R (ct 2).
 8 Step on R to R (ct 1); close L (ct 2).
 9-14 Repeat meas 1-6.
 15-16 Jump onto both ft 3 times with accent or stamp R 3 times slightly fwd (cts 1,2,1); hold (ct 2).
 17-32 Repeat meas 1-16. (2 times in all)

FIGURE III

When doing this figure as a cpl dance, W use opp ftwk.

- 1-3 Moving fwd twd ctr, beg L, do 3 polka steps, alternating ftwk.
 4 Jump fwd onto both ft, ft slightly apart, knees bent (ct 1); hold (ct 2).
 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4, beg R and moving bkwd.
 9 Small leap onto L slightly to L (ct 1); step R, L in place (cts &,2).
 Cpls turn slightly twd ptr, MR and WL hands move slightly bkwd.
 Note: Ftwk is flat-footed.
 10 Repeat meas 9 with opp ftwk. Cpls turn to face ctr.
 11-12 Jump 3 times (flat-footed) in place or stamp L ft 3 times slightly fwd (cts 1,2,1); hold (ct 2).
 13-24 Repeat meas 1-12. (2 times in all)

INTERLUDE

- 1-2 During the 4-ct pause in the music, yell "repeté" (reh-peh-teh) which translates "more" in French; you may also clap 3 times (cts 1,2,1); hold (ct 2).

CIRCLE VERSION OF DANCE

Repeat dance from beg. The circle version of the dance is done a total of 2 times.

COUPLE VERSION OF DANCE

Repeat Fig I-II.

FIGURE IIIA: CPL VERSION (POLKA)

- 1-4 Cpls face (M face LOD), join in shldr/shldr-blade pos, and do 3 polka steps and a jump onto both ft (see Fig III, meas 1-4), beg ML, WR, turning CW 1 1/2 times while moving in LOD. M end facing RLOD, W facing M.
 5-8 Do 3 polka steps and a jump, beg MR, WL, cpls turn CCW 1-1/2 times while moving in RLOD. M end facing LOD, W facing M.
 9-10 Cpls turn CW 1 time in place with 2 polka steps. M end facing LOD, W facing M.
 11-12 Do 3 jumps in place (flat-footed) with accent.
 13-14 Repeat meas 1-8 (cpl version).

Dance notes by Željko Jergan and Dorothy Daw 1-96
 Presented by Željko Jergan