

A6 ČARLAMA

Serbia (Yugoslavia)

Čarlama (char-LAH-mah), also known as *Čaralama* and *Užička* *Varlama*, is a puzzling dance whose origins have yet to be satisfactorily researched. Its name seems to be derived from Turkish and has been translated as "strategy" or "means-to-an-end", a somewhat mystifying name for a dance; the hop-clicks in its second part are extremely rare in Serbian dance; and, although the title *Užička*, often attached to its name, points to an origin in the town of Užice (western Serbia), researchers have found no trace of the dance there.

In Vol. I of their *Narodne igre* (1934), Serbian dance authorities Ljubica and Danica Janković give a description of *Užička Varlama* as taught to them (probably in Belgrade) by "Veselin Vidić from Čajetina near Užice". Elsewhere they mention that the dance had "humorous elements" and that natives jokingly called it "*Šimi-kolo*" ("Shimmy kolo"). In the opinion of Mme. Maqa Magazino-*vić*, Serbian dance historian, *Čarlama* could easily have been a novelty dance created by Serbian soldiers who had seen dances of other nationalities during World War I and emulated some of the foreign movements that were fun to do in boots.

The version of *Čarlama* given here is based on the 1934 description by the Janković sisters and on the styling used by an amateur dance group from Užice who performed the dance (learned from the book?) in a film made in 1948.

Meter: 2/4

Formation: Open circle or line, M and W, hands joined down at sides ("V" position), end dancers' free hand at small of back or holding vest.

MEAS	PATTERN
	No introduction. Dance begins with first measure of music.
	<u>Part 1 - In place</u>
1	Facing ctr, low hop on Lft in place (1); very short step fwd with flat Rft (&); rock back onto Lft in place (2).
2	Still facing ctr, step Rft beside Lft (1); low hop on Rft in place (2).
3-4	Repeat mov'ts of meas 1-2 with opposite ftwk.
5-16	Repeat mov'ts of meas 1-4 three more times (4 in all).
	<u>Part 2 - Traveling R and L</u>
17	Facing R of ctr and moving in LOD: hop on Lft (1); step Rft fwd (&); step Lft fwd (2); pause (&).
18	Still facing R of ctr and moving in LOD: hop on Lft, clicking R heel against L heel (1); again hop on Lft, clicking R heel against L heel (2).
19-22	Repeat mov'ts of meas 17-18 twice more, continuing in LOD.
23	Same as meas 17 (hop-step-step beginning with hop on Lft).
24	Step Rft fwd in LOD (1); hop on Rft, beginning to turn L in preparation for next mov'ts (2).
25-32	Reverse mov'ts of meas 17-24, beginning with hop on Rft and moving in RLOD.