

## Ušti Baba

(Albania)

This dance was choreographed by Bianca de Jong to the Rom song Ušti Ušti Baba and it consists of elements of the Podrimsko Oro and the Shota. The Podrimsko Oro is a dance of the Shqiptar from the area around the border between Albania and Serbia, along the river Drim. Shota (or Shote) (Albanian: Vallja e Shotes) is an Albanian dance very popular in Kosovo, and named after the Albanian heroine Shote Galica. It involves quick steps along with a high-tempo beat. The Shota is mainly danced by Albanians, but is well known throughout the Balkans.

Pronunciation: OOSH-tee BAH-bah

Translation: Wake up, Father.

Music: 4/4 meter

*Ethnic Festival 2014 - Roberto Bagnoli, Track #5*

Formation: Individual dancers facing ctr. Begin with arms in V-pos but without joining hands.

Meas      4/4 meter

Pattern

1-4      INTRODUCTION. No action. (start with trumpets)

I. FIGURE I.

- 1      Step-hop R fwd (cts 1, &); step-hop on L bkwd (cts 2, &); swinging arms fwd and back; repeat cts 1, &, 2, & (cts 3, &, 4, &).
- 2      Moving diag R, step on R, lifting L in front, lifting arms up (ct 1); with straight L leg in front, hop twice on R (cts 2, &); turning hands from the wrists around and inward, step L to L (ct 3); step R next to L (ct &); step L in place (ct 4).
- 3      Touch R diag R sdwd with L hand up beside the head, palm facing in, and moving R hand diag sdwd low, palm of hand down (ct 1); bending knees, lift R to L ankle, hands with palms twd and in front of face (ct 2); repeat action of cts 1-2 (cts 3, 4). Note: look at R hand during this meas.
- 4      With arms open loosely at sides, step on R (ct 1) bending R knee, step on ball of L ft, moving out of the ctr (ct &); repeat cts 1, & three times (cts 2, &, 3, &, 4 &), while gradually turning R to face ctr. Note: similar to a wide, buzz-step turn.
- 5-8      Repeat meas 1-4. **Revised 10/11/2014**

II. FIGURE II. (Singing)

- 1      Bringing arms up to W-pos and holding hands, step R to R (ct 1); touch L next to R, moving hips with it (ct 2); step L to L (ct 3); touch R next to L, moving hips with it (ct 4).
- 2      Step R to R (ct 1); step L behind R (ct 2); step R to R (ct 3); touch L next to R, moving hips with it (ct 4).
- 3      Facing ctr, step L fwd (ct 1); touch R next to L (ct 2); step R bkwd diag R (ct 3); step L behind R (ct 4).
- 4      Sway on ball of R to R, moving hips with it (ct 1); sway back on L to L (ct 2); sway on ball of R fwd (ct 3); turning body slightly to L, step back on L to L, moving hips with it (ct 4). End facing ctr.
- 5-8      Repeat meas 1-4.

Ušti Baba — continued

III. FIGURE III.

- 1 Bringing arms down to V-pos, step R to R bending R knee and leaving L in place, facing diag L (ct1); bounce twice (cts 2, &); repeat cts 1, 2, & with opp ftwk and direction (cts 3, 4, &).
- 2 Beg R, three steps moving CCW (cts 1, 2, 3); touch L next to R (ct 4).
- 11-12 Repeat pattern of meas 9-10 with opp ftwk and direction.

Sequence: Fig I, Fig II, Fig III. Repeat. End with Fig. I

Presented by Roberto Bagnoli

Lyrics

This is a Macedonian Roma song about the morning of the wedding, when the wedding party comes to take the bride and her dowry from the house. It is sung by the bride's sister. (Note: The dance Čoček can also be done to this song.)

Ušti ušti, baba	Wake up, wake up, father
O davulja maren	The drum is beating
O davulja maren, baba	The drum is beating
Me fenjake aven / x2	They're coming for my sister.
Aven, aven, me fenjake aven / x2	Sister, sister, they're coming for my sister.
Me fenjake aven	They're coming for my sister
E najšukarjakje	The most beautiful one
E najšukarjakje, baba	The most beautiful one, father
E najtiknorjakje / x2	The smallest one
Ušti ušti, ušti baba ušti / x2	Wake up, wake up, father, wake up
Ušti, baba, ušti	Wake up, father, wake up
O cheizi ikal	The dowry is being taken out
O cheizi ikal, baba	The dowry is being taken out, father
E najtiknorjakje / x2	The smallest one
Maren, maren, o davulja maren	Beating, beating, the drum is beating
Ušti ušti, baba	Wake up, wake up, father
O davulja maren	The drum is beating
O davulja maren, baba	The drum is beating
Me fenjake aven / x2	They're coming for my sister
Aven, aven, me fenjake aven / x2	Sister, sister, they're coming for my sister

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