

**Read Me: (Play on your computer's CD/DVD drive or USB port.)**

## **THE PETALUMA SNAP-Y DANCERS DIGITAL MP3 MUSIC COLLECTION**

Teacher or student, your greatest aid when you want to teach, learn or review a forgotten folk dance is access to the music.<sup>1</sup> The collection on this DVD or flash drive is based on the nearly 800 audio tapes produced between 1983 and 2004 by Carol Hirsh and her assistants, for Santa Rosa Junior College classes in Petaluma, California. Here you'll find examples of a very high percentage of today's most requested International folk dances, plus a few taught during more recent classes.

The original monaural audio taped music has been converted to mp3 digital format. Stereo copies of the same recordings found on our tapes are often freely available on the Internet,<sup>2</sup> so I sometimes selected those rather than a converted copy of our original monaural tape. Artists who record folk dance music frequently place examples of their work online. When I had similar recordings of the same piece, I chose the one (or occasionally two) most likely to encourage enjoyable dancing.

Some commonly used recordings, especially in our more recent classes, are copyright-protected. Even much older recordings on vinyl records could fall into this group. Several artists gave permission to include such pieces here, but when obtaining permission was not possible or feasible, I moved those recordings to a separate "teaching reserve (TR) folder" included only on special copies of the DVD or flash drive available to dance program teachers or administrators. Good alternative versions of these pieces may be found on commercially available CDs or on the internet. If you do discover a recording that should have been placed in this folder, but wasn't, please let me know so it can be corrected.

I used the free software program "Audacity" to repair or modify recordings in need of attention – normalizing the volume, removing tape and record background noises, skipped record tracks, clicks or scratches, or to clone a repeated good section to replace a damaged identical passage earlier or later on. The cut-and-paste process also helped when the first few notes of a piece were missing because a tape recorder had been started slightly after the original piece was already running, or occasionally when the original selection was simply too short (or too long), to be chosen for a dance class program.

The digital mp3 format includes a folder for "metadata" information about each recording - here I placed the name of the original album or source of the recording (when I could locate it), country of origin, artists and/or their permission to include, the level of the dance, the pages in Carol Hirsh's teaching notes where the dance is described and explained, and links to one or two online videos showing the dance being taught or performed. I used the free software program "Winamp 5.55" to write the metadata information, and to organize the music files into their various groups. Depending on your own mp3 player, some of the metadata information will be visible when you listen to the song (name, country), but to see the rest you will need to access the information file while playing the music on your computer. Notes, scores and translations for most folk dances music can also be found on the internet.

Steve Ayala  
Petaluma, California  
November, 2009

## PETALUMA INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE MUSIC RECORDINGS

	<b><u>1<sup>st</sup> String Dances</u></b>	<b><u>2<sup>nd</sup> String Dances</u></b>	<b><u>Reserve Recordings</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
Armenia	15	6	6	<b>27</b>
Bulgaria	47	33	50	<b>130</b>
Croatia	8	5	18	<b>31</b>
Greece	46	35	46	<b>127</b>
Israel	32	14	27	<b>73</b>
Macedonia	34	38	28	<b>100</b>
Other Countries	44	42	30	<b>116</b>
Romania	34	25	15	<b>74</b>
Serbia	32	8	23	<b>63</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>741</b>

**1<sup>st</sup> String Dances** – First Choice, The Most Popular Dance Program or Class Selections

**2<sup>nd</sup> String Dances** – Good Back-up, More Advanced, or Other Memorable Recordings

**Teaching Reserve (TR) Recordings** – Possibly Copyright-Sensitive, Requiring Permission to copy – Includes Several Newer Recordings or Good alternative older versions  
[These files included only on DVDs for teachers or program administrators.]



### Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Roy Butler (2009), *Using a laptop to run your dance class*. Let's Dance! [Magazine of the Folk Dance Federation of California], July-August p. 16.

<sup>2</sup> See, for example: the Dunav collection – <http://www.dunav.org.il> , the Evansville Folk Dancers - <http://www.evansvillefolkdancers.com/id66.html> , the Balkan, Greek and Anatolian dance library - <http://folkdancemusic.net/> , Ethnic Dance of Chicago - <http://www.ethnicdance.net/index.html> , Sacramento's International Folk Dance video list - [http://ifdvl.org/videodancelista\\_f.shtml](http://ifdvl.org/videodancelista_f.shtml) , Tous aux Balkans - <http://www.tousauxbalkans.net/Cat%C3%A9gorie:Pays> .



Petaluma's Best Balkan Folk Dance Music: [http://www.sonic.net/~stevayla/PB\\_Cover\\_Content.pdf](http://www.sonic.net/~stevayla/PB_Cover_Content.pdf)