

Koritsa – Albania

“Koritsa” means “girl” in Greek but it is also the Greek form of the name of the southeast Albanian city of Korçë. Steve Kotansky introduced it using the title *Valle Nga Konispol*, but it has also been taught by Lee Otterholt. The music is “Don’t Cry” from *Kurbeti: Music of Albania’s Gypsies*, by Kurbeti. (Note: on this album is also a tune called Koritsa, but despite the name it is not the one used for this dance.) The song is called either *Mos Qaj* (first line of the refrain) or *Kush mi qan hallet e mia* (first line of the song).

Formation: Open circle, all facing center, hands joined in W hold.

Measure

- 1 Step on R to R (1); touch ball of L ft fwd across in front of R ft (2)
- 2 Step fwd on L twd Ctr (1); touch ball of R ft fwd (2)
- 3 Step R ft back across behind L ft (1); step back on L across behind R (2); step on R to R (&)
- 4 Step on L across & in front of R ft (1); step on R to R (2); step on L across & behind R ft (&)

During instrumental interludes, swing hands fwd and down during measure 2 (as you step on L); back up to W on measure 3; down again on measure 4; return to W hold on measure 1. Arm swings are done slowly and smoothly, with control. Movement of arms is continuous.

The steps are a variation on a Pogonisos-type dance.

The song translates as:

Who cries for my troubles since I left Albania?

Chorus: Don't cry, don't cry, I love you.

Oh, you black fate, you always follow me.

Night and day I stay in thought, while this heart of mine suffers.

Dance notes by Sally Jenkins