

Çobankat

Albania

Çobankat ("cho-BAHN-kaht") means "The Shepardesses." It is a traditional song of the "Tosk" people of Albania. The words extoll the freedom (and "freedom fighters") to be found in the Albanian mountains. I have put typical Albanian steps to the melody.

Music: "Çobankat," Track 11 on the CD "ayde Mori" by Muammer Ketencoğlu, et.al., released by Kalan Muzik, Istanbul

Rhythm: 2/4 (SQQ)

Formation: Open circle.

Handhold: Low handhold. ("V").

Style: Bounce twice gently on every ct (1&).

METER: 2/4 PATTERN

Meas

Introduction – instrumental solo, then four meas of drumbeats.

I. Instrumental – Cross behind, then move

- 1 Facing ctr and dancing in place: Step on R ft (1), step on L ft behind R (2), step on R ft in place (&).
- 2 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk (1, 2 &).
- 3 Facing ctr, but moving to R: Step on R ft to R (1), step on L behind R (2), step on R to R (&).
- 4 Step on L ft crossed in front of R (1), step on R ft to R (2), step on L ft crossed in front of R (&).
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4
- 9-11 Repeat meas 1-3

(That is: Repeat this dance motif 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ times. There is no meas 12.)

II. Song verse – Step fwd and lift

- 1 Facing ctr and dancing in place: Step fwd on L ft crossed in front of R (1), bounce 2 times on L ft while R ft swings around to a position directly in front of L shin and then back again (2&).
- 2 Step on R ft directly behind L (1), step on L ft directly behind R (2), moving to the R, step on R ft to right (&).
- 3-12 Repeat meas 1-2 five more times. (Six times in all.)

III. Song refrain – Crossing in front

- 1 Step fwd on L ft crossed in front of R (1), turning slowly to face L, bounce 2 times on L ft while R ft swings slowly around in front of L (2&).
- 2 Repeat meas 1 with opp. direction and footwork.
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 of Fig. II ("Song verse.")
- 5-7 Repeat meas 1-3.
- 8 Step on R ft directly behind L (1), bounce 2 times on R ft as L ft twists slightly behind R leg, then swings around in front of R ft (2&).
- 9-13 Repeat meas 1-5 of Fig. II ("Song verse.").

The dance repeats from the beginning. Meas 13 of Fig III is left out the last time the song is sung. Continue with Fig II on the last instrumental phrase. End by bringing feet slowly together: Step on L ft (1), then place R ft beside L ft (2).

*(Style note: A slight hesitation **may** be made before each transfer of weight. That is: tread ever so slightly after the beat.)*

Çobankat

Albania

1

Çobankat moj që shkojnë	Oh, my shepherdesses who walk
Zallit moj çobankat ë	On stony paths, oh, my shepherdesses
Shkojnë e tjerrin për djemtë	Go and spin (wool) for the boys
Malit moj çobankat ë	In the mountains (freedom fighters), oh, my shepherdesses.

Refrain:

0 liri , liri për djemtë e malit ë	Oh, freedom, freedom for the boys in the mountains
Djemtë moj me yuë të kuq mes ballit ë	Boys with a red star on their foreheads
0 moj çobankat ë	Oh, you shepherdesses
0 moj të mirat ë	Oh, you good ones.

2

//Tirr motër moj të tjerrim	Spin, my sister, spin now
Tu bëjmë rroba trimave //	To make clothes for the heroes.

3

Tirre trashë o mos e tirr	Spin it thick, not thin
Hollë moj mos e tirr moj	Do not spin it thin.
Për trimat që flejnë dë	For the heroes who sleep
Borë o moj në dëbor	In the snow, oh, the snow.