

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.¹ 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 a very high percentage of the 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,² 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 – 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 when the original selection was simply too short (or occasionally 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, and even scores, for most folk dances can also be found on the internet.

Steve Ayala
Petaluma, California
November, 2009

PETALUMA INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE MUSIC RECORDINGS

	<u>1st String Dances</u>	<u>2nd String Dances</u>	<u>Reserve Recordings</u>	<u>Total</u>
Armenia	15	6	6	27
Bulgaria	45	34	51	130
Croatia	8	5	18	31
Greece	45	32	46	123
Israel	32	13	30	75
Macedonia	34	36	29	99
Other Countries	45	42	30	117
Romania	35	23	19	77
Serbia	32	8	23	63
Total	291	199	252	742

1st String Dances – First Choice Selections for Dance Programs or Classes

2nd 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:

¹ 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.

² 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 , Tous aux Balkans - <http://www.tousauxbalkans.net/Cat%C3%A9gorie:Pays> .

