

Slovak folk dances

Hi, my name is Veronika Poloncova. My name is Zuzana Popluhárová and we are going to tell you something about Slovak folk dances.

Folk dances are important part of Slovak culture.

Slovakia is divided into 20 dance areas, which mutually differ in typical traditions, costumes and dance items.

Folklore – the original meaning of the word is „things people know“.

The title has been created by joining English words folk (people) and lore (knowledge).

There are types of Slovak folk dances:

Couple-curling dances (čapáš, čardáš)

Male dances (verbunk, odzemok, hajduch)

Female flywheel dances (karička)

Myjava is brisk couple dance.

It comes from Myjava region (Western Slovakia).

Verbunk is male dance of modern origin.

The name is derived from a German word „werben“ (to obtain, recruit, lure) which is made in the werbing (historical form of hitting the groomsmen to the Imperial Army), to which it belonged. As well as dancing.

In rural environment dances were enriched by them and became traditional regional dance motifs during the 19th century.

There are two types of choreography:

a. The individual men improvisation verbunks which are adorning with youths style of dancing (e.g. parobský) with older musical characters.

In the past folk dance was a part of people's whole lives. Birth of newborn was also celebrated with singing and dancing.

Other opportunities to dance were variety of festivals. Typical festivals full of dance are carnivals - term of Easter.

People used to make their daily life better with dance. They were dancing in time of work too and for example: when the men went to fight in war, because of a wedding, to hail some events or just to have fun.

Meaning of Slovak folk costumes are:

- a. Classification according sex and age
- b. Identification of marital status
- c. Relevancy to region

Types are:

- a. Working
- b. Sabbatical
- c. Ceremonial

Men costume are composite of:

Hat, linen shirt, waistcoat, belt, cloth trousers

Women costume is composite of:

Bonnet, shirt, cloth petty, skirt, apron

There is difference between costume of an unmarried girl and a married woman:

Costume of an unmarried girl:

Hair is divided with lane. At the back is a ribbon mixed-up with braid. Unmarried girls had some headwear only in winter and work.

Costume of a married woman:

Hair is divided with lane too but they have some headwear all the time. Mostly bonnet – sign of a married woman.

Nowadays only folks companies treasure up folk dances.

Most important: Lúčnica, SĽUK – they can be proud of its rich history.

Every year culture–folk festivals take place in Slovakia.

Many kids or young people are interested in folk dances.

Thank you for your attention.



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