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White area denotes Gagauzia.

This dance is from the Gagauzi culture danced to a Gagauzi love song. Gagauzia is an independent country located within the borders of Moldavia. The Gagauzi people are from the same Oguz tribe as Turks living in Turkey now but, when migrating from the middle Asia, the Gagauzi branch followed the north Black Sea path, and finally settled in the territories from Crimia to Bulgaria. Once there, most of them converted to Orthodox Christianity. Today the Gagauzi people speak

a very clear Turkish dialect which is somewhere between Azerbaijani and Turkish dialects.

Just as the language has many influences, in their dance culture you can also find different influences from Turkish, Pontic, Bulgarian, Romanian and Moldovan dances and music.

In 1994 the Gagauzi people were given an autonomous land called Gagauzia which lies within Moldova.

Caspar Bik learned this dance from Dominike Karantzounis, a Dutch specialist in Romanian dances.

Pronunciation: MAH-ree KUHZ

Translation: Oh, girl

Music: 3/4 meter *Balkan and Beyond, Track #5*

Formation: Circle of dancers facing ctr with hands in V-pos.

1-16 INTRODUCTION. No action.

I. ALONG THE CIRCLE.

1 Step L in front of R, bending knees (ct 1); step R to R (ct 2); step L next to R (ct &); step R to R (ct 3).

2 Step L behind R (ct 1); step R to R (ct 2); step L next to R (ct &); step R to R (ct 4).

3 Repeat meas 1.

4 Step L behind R (ct 1); step R to R (ct 2); step L in place (ct &); step R next to L (ct 3).

5-16 Repeat meas 1-4 three times.

II. TOWARDS CENTER AND BACK

1 Step L fwd diag R, moving twd ctr (ct 1); 3 steps (R, L, R) continuing twd ctr (cts 2, &, 3).

2 Step L in front of R with bent knee (ct 1); step R back in place (ct 2); step L to L (ct &); step R in front of L with bent knee (ct 3).

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Mari Kız — continued

3 Facing slightly diagonally L, step L bkwrd (ct 1); 3 steps (R, L, R) backing up (cts 2, &, 3)

4 Facing ctr, step L behind R (ct 1); sway R to R (ct 2); step L back in place (ct &); step R next to L (ct 3).

5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.

Sequence: As noted above, five times, then Fig I one more time.

Presented by Caspar Bik

Lyrics

Su bag cotin altında, Mari kız
Gül gül üzümçük

Üzüm mü toplayim, Mari kız
Sana mi bakayim?

Sana baka baka, Mari kız, gözüm süzüldü

Versene o al basmani, Mari kız
Gözümü sileyim,

Gözümü sildilce sildikge, Mari kız
Sana kem bakayim

Seni da bana vermesaydilar deli mi olayim?

Komratimin alcak yollarina

Köprü mü olayim?
Gelene gecene, Mari kız, seni mi sorayim?
Bildir (gecen sene) turnam biricikti
Bu yil yes oldu (esi oldu).

Vardi tabir karakaşlı
Kime yes oldun

Under the grape leaves, oh girl
Fruited bunches of grapes

Shall I pick up the grapes, oh girl
Or shall I look at you?
Due to too much looking, oh girl, my eyes get
tired. Give me your red cotton scarf, oh girl
Let me wipe my eyes.

After wiping and wiping my eyes, oh girl
Let me see you again
If they don't give me you, shall I go out of my
mind? Over the lower roads of my Komrad*

Shall I be a bridge?
To all the passers-by, oh girl, shall I ask of
you? Last year my crane bird was alone
This year she found a mate.

Gone with one with black
eyebrows** Whose mate are
you now?

* Komrad is the capital city of the Gagauz Turks in today's Moldavia.

(**) Karakaşlı: "one with black eyebrows" usually refers to a pretty girl (or, rarely, to a handsome boy) with dark eyes and eyebrows. The last two paragraphs are quite abstract.