# Valle e Gajdes e Shpëjt

(Korcë, Albania)

Fast dance from Korcë, played on the gajda (bagpipes).

Pronunciation: VAH-leh eh GAEE-dehs eh SHPET  Translation: Fast gajde (bagpipe) dance.

Music: 4/4 meter

Formation: Open circle; hands in W-position.

Steps & Styling:

| Meas | 4/4 meter | Pattern |
|---|---|---|
| | I. | BASIC STEP |
| 1 | | Facing diag R and moving to R: Step fwd on R (1), step fwd on L (2), step fwd on R to R (3), with L ft placed next to R calf, bounce on R (4) |
| 2 | | Step fwd on L (1), step fwd on R (2), step fwd on L (3), hop on L while turning to face ctr (4) |
| 3 | | Facing ctr and moving away from ctr: Step back on R (1), step back on L (2), step back on R (3), step back on L (4) |
| 4 | | Still facing ctr but dancing in place: Step on R to R (1), hop on R while swing in L up in front (2), step on L to L (3), hop on L while swinging R up in front (4) |

As the dance gets faster the leader introduces progressively more energetic variations:

VARIATIONS:

Meas 1: Leader can turn CW (to R) on first 3 steps. Leader can also signal for others to do the same.

Meas 1: Facing diag R and moving to R: Step fwd on R (1), step fwd on L (2), skip on L on upbeat (a), big step on R, bending knee (3), hop more energetically on R, lifting L ft higher under you (4)

Meas 2: Skip (not just step) on the first 3 cts and again hop more energetically on ct 4

Meas 3: "Skip and Twizzle" the steps moving bkwds (that is, hop on the upbeats and twist the heel of the free ft, which is in front, inwards. (Also called a "reel step.")

Dance presented by Genci Kastrati

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