

Bulgarian folklore by Silvena Petrova

#CODANEC YOUTH COMPETITION #My Culture My Story

Part 1 - Folklore song

<https://www.facebook.com/100006720093990/videos/3061090157458291/>

My name is Silvena, I'm 19 years old and I'm from Ruse, Bulgaria. All these years of my life, so far, I've been taught that our traditions, history, language, all these elements of a culture are very important for a nation to be. I've learnt that it's the culture that determines us as people, differentiates us from one another and makes us unique. Because every language has its features and beauty, as well as the traditions, folklore, and all the other aspects of the culture. I believe we can learn a lot about one another by taking advantage of our cultural heritage. It could definitely bring us closer and help us broaden our horizons.

I'm going to present you a part of the Bulgarian cultural heritage – the folklore. I'm going to do this through a song. It is me on the video, attached below, and I'm singing one of the most famous Bulgarian folklore songs – Лале ли си, зюмбюл ли си (Lale li si, zyumbyul li si). It's an emblematic song for the Bulgarians, but mostly for the Dobrudzha region. After the Liberation, large groups of people from the region of Thrace and The Old Mountain moved to Dobrudzha. This leads to the merge of elements from different regions, which enriches and diversifies the folklore of the region. The Dobrudzha song is slow, performed to the accompaniment of bagpipe, fiddle or a kaval (a traditional Bulgarian instrument, that is similar to the flute, but the sound is a bit more different).

The Bulgarian folklore songs are recognized as one of the wonders of the world. In order to perform them, you need to have mastery, you have to be able to feel every single note that forms the song and in that way to convey the feeling to the audience. Because the Bulgarian voice is something that even the word "magical" cannot describe.

Video: Personal archive

Part 2 - Folklore costume

In the second part of my material, I'm going to present you traditional Bulgarian folklore costumes from the Thracian region and Dobrudzha.

From the attached photos below, the first three are two different types of Thracian costumes. The first one is authentic and the second one is stylized. The Thracian costumes are famous for their diversity, especially with the female costumes, due to the large scope of the region. The female costumes are most commonly with a pinafore (the Bulgarian word for that is "sukman") and the male costumes are black-colored.



The female costumes with a pinafore are worn all over Bulgaria. It consists of a white cotton shirt and a pinafore with the typical for every region in Bulgaria embroideries. In the Thracian region we have a richness of embroideries and ornaments. Most commonly the pinafore is without sleeves but in some places it's found with short or even long sleeves.

The male black-colored costume consists of a white cotton shirt, again richly ornamented with the typical embroidery, dark traditional trousers (the Bulgarian word for them is "poturi") and a vest, which is also decorated. In this region we find the traditional Bulgarian hat and the popular variegated and richly decorated

hats with roses and other flowers are typical for the villages in the Rose Valley.

The Dobrudzha costumes are also emblematic for their region. The authentic female Dobrudzha costume consists of a red embroidered pinafore, a long cotton blouse and a black embroidered apron. The headscarf is typical – usually yellow with long silk fringes, a reference to the golden wheat ears, carefully grown by the locals.

The male Dobrudzha costume is black-colored again. It consists of black trousers – poturi, white cotton shirt, embroidered on the bosom and is complemented by a woolen red belt.

Photos: Personal archive