

Petaluma's Best Balkan Folk Dance Music

750 audiotape dance tunes in new mp3 format

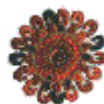


Petaluma Snap-y Dancers continues the tradition of southern Sonoma County international folk dances and dance instruction begun in 1983 through the Santa Rosa Junior College. Summer weekly programs include by-request selections of favorite dances from the past.

Most of the accumulated collection of audiotape music has now been converted to digital mp3 format. Nearly 750 of the most requested Balkan and International folk dance tunes can be listened to on a home computer, or transferred to an mp3 player or iPod. Teachers can run their dance programs from their iPod or laptop.

The entire converted collection has been placed on either a single data-DVD or a 4GB flash drive for distribution to all current or former southern Sonoma County folk dancers. It is organized into seven folders:

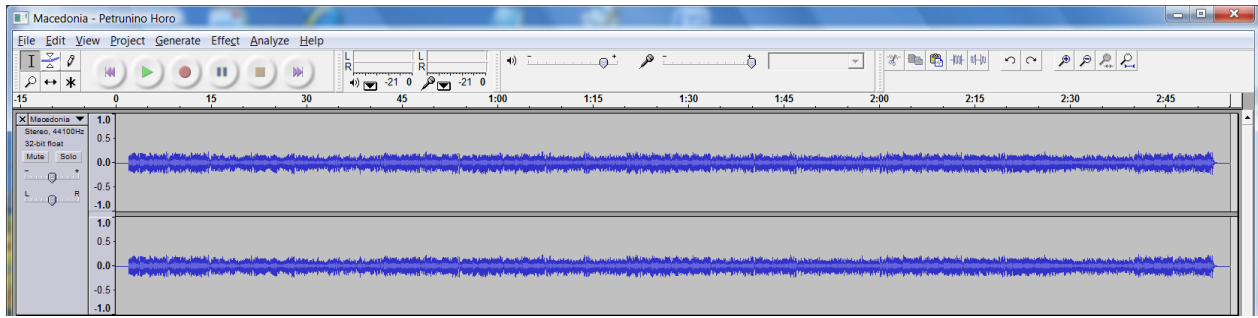
- [0. Cover - Contents \(.pdf\)](#)
[2 Pages - 790 KB: Petaluma's Best Balkan Folk Dance Music]
- [1. Read Me file \(.pdf\)](#)
[2 Pages - 415 KB: The new mp3 collection, how it was made and how to use it]
- [2. Collection Index \(.pdf\)](#)
[8 Pages - 260 KB: Music files in folders I, II and III, each one organized by country]
- [3. Alphabetical Index \(.pdf\)](#)
[5 Pages - 203 KB: All music recordings organized by title in a single, alphabetical list]
- [I. 1st String Recordings](#)
[292 First choice mp3 recordings: The most requested for dance programs or classes]
- [II. 2nd String Recordings](#)
[206 mp3 recordings: Good back-ups, and other memorable dance tunes]
- [III. Restricted Recordings](#)
[243 mp3 recordings - Widely used, but possibly copyright sensitive - only available to teachers and administrators]
- [IV. Selected Teaching Notes \(.pdf\)](#)
[30 Pages - 694 KB: Carol Hirsh's step and styling notes for 154 common Balkan folk dances]



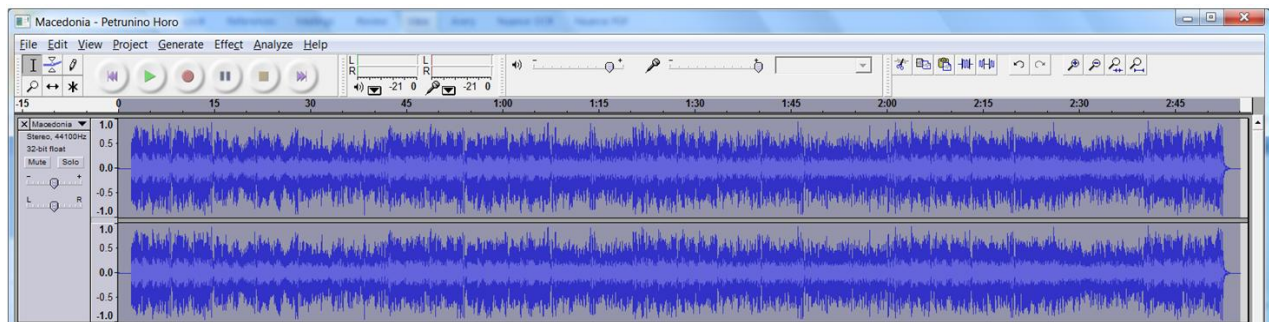
The five .pdf files can be downloaded from this site*. Questions about the collection, its availability, or requests for more information can be addressed to stevayla@sonic.net

CHALLENGES IN CONVERTING PETALUMA'S MONAURAL TAPES TO DIGITAL .MP3 FORMAT

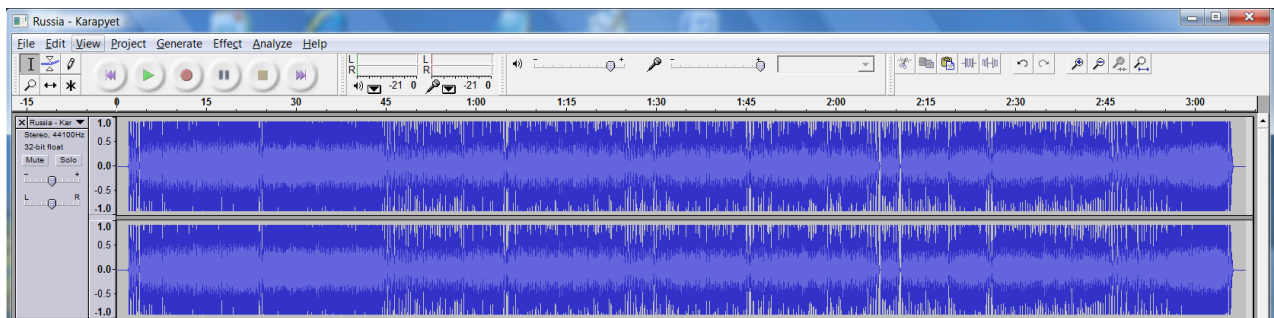
1. Some originals were copied at a very low volume (below), with most of the full recording range left unused:



Low intensity sound waves were digitally amplified (below) so these recordings could be played normally.



2. A tape recorder has a limited range to record sound. Sometimes, copies were made with the volume turned up so high that the tops and bottoms of the sound waves got chopped off (below). Volume was lowered during conversion, but the sound can never be as rich as the original – the lost information cannot be recovered.



3. A "fake" monaural recording. In some copies, sound was recorded on only one of the two tracks (below), so it was heard through only one earphone or speaker. The unused track was deleted, and replaced with a clone of the good track to make a stereo recording (although the sound is now identical on both tracks).

