

Opincuța

(Bessarabia, Republic of Moldova)

Opincuța is a fast Hora from the Balți region. One of the remarkable characteristics of the Hora family is the arm movement, as the arms are held in W-pos. Usually the hands create small circles and thus give a dynamic and enticing feel to the dance. However, the movement should always be done with a certain nimbleness and subtlety.

This dance is performed through a magnificent interpretation of a popular song by a choir of Moldavian children. The crystal clear and warm voices of these kids make you want to dance with pleasure and vigor.

Pronunciation: oh-PEEN-khoo-tsah

Music: *Sonia Dion & Cristian Florescu, Special Edition, Band 2* or *Sonia Dion & Cristian Florescu, Vol. 3, Band 3.* 2/4 meter

Formation: Mixed circle; hands joined up in W-pos, facing ctr.

Meas Pattern

16 meas INTRODUCTION

Ft together, hands in W-pos making tiny circles, up first, twd ctr of circle .

I. STEP SIDEWAYS WITH WINDSHIELD WIPER ARM MOVEMENTS

- 1 Step on R sdwd R, swinging forearms to R like windshield wipers (ct 1); close L next to R with wt, swinging forearms to L (ct 2).
- 2 Step on R sdwd to R, swinging forearms to R (ct 1); close ball of L ft next to R without wt keeping forearms to R (ct 2).
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk and direction. Forearms swing L, R, L, and ctr.
- 5 Three running steps (R,L,R) with flat feet, moving slightly diag R, hands doing tiny circles, up first, twd ctr of circle (ct 1&2); stamp on L slightly diag to the ctr near R (ct &).
- 6 Repeat meas 5 with opp ftwk to R.
- 7 Repeat meas 5.
- 8 Step on L with entire ft (ct 1); step on R (ct &); step on L (ct 2).
Note: Meas 8 = 1 two-step without the ending stamp.
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.

II. FIGURE 2

- 1-2 Repeat Fig I, meas 1-2.
- 3 Step on L to L (ct 1); close R next to L with wt (ct 2).
- 4 Step on L to L (ct 1); brush with R heel in front of the L, with bent knee (ct &); follow through by lifting the R leg into a 90° knee bend, while raising L heel (ct 2); stamp R without wt close to L ft (heel is in the middle L ft) (ct &).

Opincuța—continued

- 5 Stamp R to R with wt, slightly oriented twd LOD but body remains facing ctr, as arms begin to swing down twd back to a V-pos (ct 1); cross L in front, arms continuing to swing back (ct 2).
- 6 Step on R to R bringing arms back to W-pos (ct 1); step on L in place while changing to face RLOD (ct 2).
- 7-8 Do 2 two-steps to the L starting with R.
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.

SEQUENCE: Repeat 4 times; alternating Fig 1 and Fig 2.

Presented by Sonia Dion & Cristian Florescu

Lyrics for *Opincuța*

Frunzuliță iasomnie diridi-diridaida Aastă hora-mi place mie diridi-dirididaida (2x) De micuță am jucat diridi-diridaida Cum-mama mo-nvățat diridi-dirididaida	Small leaves of jasmine That's the dance I enjoy I am dancing this one since I was a child Likes my mother showed me
Și se joacă pe-nserat diridi-diridaida Când-e sărbătoare-n sat diridi-dirididaida (2x) Cântă fete sprâncenate diridi-diridaida Cu flăcăi din multe sate diridi-dirididaida	And dance during evening When it is a party in the village The pretty girls sing With the young boys of the village
Zi cobzare zi cu foc diridi-diridaida Cu drag să intrăm în joc diridi-dirididaida (2x) Hora să se facă roată diridi-diridaida Căi horă de altădată diridi-dirididaida	And the player of lute plays with fire So, with pleasure we will dance <i>Hora</i> will be like a wheel Because it's a very old <i>Hora</i>
Nici moșnegii nu se lasă diridi-diridaida Strigă babele de-acasă diridi-dirididaida (2x) Să vină la hora mare diridi-diridaida În haine de sărbătoare diridi-dirididaida Căi horă moldovenească diridi-diridaida Toată lumea să poftască diridi-dirididaida	Even old men don't give up! They invite their old wife to come from home To join the huge <i>Hora</i> With their most beautiful "Sunday dress" Because it is <i>Hora</i> moldovan Everybody enjoys!