

Brâul fetelor din Drăguș

(Romania, Brasov region)

Brâul is a spectacular form of dance, traditionally done by men. In the Southern part of Transylvania, close to the Carpathian Mountains, however, one can see Brâul performed exclusively by women. (The word fetelor means young girls.) This particular form of dance is ancient. Originally the dancers held each other by the belt (brâul), hence the name of the dance. Today, this kind of hold has almost disappeared, having been replaced by holding shoulders or holding hands like for the Hora.

Pronunciation: BREWL FEH-teh-lohr deen DRUH-goosh

Music: 2/4 meter

Formation: Circle, hands on waist, facing center, moving sdwd to R.

Steps: Pinten (stirrup) is the Romanian dancer's expression for close 1 ft to the other with a sharp click.

Meas

Pattern

FIGURE I

- 1-2 Rhythm QSSQS: Stamp R, no wt (cts 1,&); stamp R, with wt and moving to R (ct 2); step on L across behind R (cts &,1); step on R sdwd to R (ct &); step on L across in front of R (ct 2).
- 3-6 Repeat meas 1-2 twice (3 total).
- 7-8 Rhythm SSQQS: Close R to L with sharp click (pinten) (cts 1,&); close R to L with sharp click (pinten) (ct 2,&); step on R (ct 1); step on L (ct &); touch R (ct 2).
- 9-32 Repeat meas 1-8 three more times (4 total).

FIGURE II

- 1-2 Rhythm SSQQS: Close R to L with sharp click (pinten) (cts 1,&); close R to L with sharp click (pinten) (ct 2,&); step on R turning 1/4 R (CW) (ct 3); step on L next to R (ct &); step on R turning 1/4 to R (CW) (cts 4,&).
- 3-6 Rhythm QSSQS: Facing LOD, L shldr to ctr, hop on R (ct 1); step fwd on L (cts &2); step fwd on R (cts &,1); step fwd on L (ct &); step fwd on R (cts 4,&).
- 9-32 Repeat meas 1-8 with opp ftwk, alternating hop on L, hop on R.

FIGURE III

- 1-2 Rhythm QSSQS: Facing ctr, hop on L moving slightly to ctr (ct 1); step fwd on R (cts &,2); step fwd on L (cts &,1); step fwd on R (ct &); step fwd on L (cts 2,&).
- 3-4 Rhythm SSQQS: Extend R leg diag 45° to L, bending R knee next to L (cts 1,&); extend R leg diag 45° to R, bending R knee next to L (cts 2,&); hop on L (ct 3); step on R (ct &); step on L (ct 4,&).
- 5-6 Repeat meas 1-4 with same ftwk but bkwd.
- 7 Hop on L (ct 1); step on R (ct &); step on L across in front of R (ct 2); step on R (ct &).
- 8 Step on L to L (ct 1); step on R across in front of L (ct &); step on L (ct 2); raise R leg with knee bent 45° in front (ct &).
- 9-32 Repeat meas 1-8 three more times (4 total).

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FIGURE IV

- 1 Moving sdwd, close R to L with a sharp click (pinten) moving to R (ct 1); close R to L with a sharp click (pinten) (ct 2).
- 2 Close R to L with a sharp click (pinten) (ct 1); close R to L with a sharp click (pinten) (ct 2).
- 3 Hop on L (ct 1); step on R across in front of L (ct &); pause (ct 2); step on L to L (ct &).
- 4 Pause (ct 1); step on R across behind of L (ct &); step on L to L (ct 2); pause (ct &)
- 5-16 Repeat meas 1-4 three more times (4 total).

FIGURE V

- 1 Grapevine with heel: Facing ctr and moving sdwd, step on R heel across in front of L (ct 1); step on L to L (ct &); step on ball or R across behind L (ct 2); step on L to L (ct &).
- 2-3 Repeat meas 1 twice (3 total).
- 4 Step on R (ct 1); step on L (ct &); step on R (ct 2); pause (ct &).
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 9 Hop on L (ct 1); step on R (ct &); step on L across in front of R (ct 2); step on R (ct &).
- 10 Step on L to L (ct 1); step on R across in front of L (ct &); step on L (ct 2); step on R to R (ct &).
- 11 Step on L across in front of R (ct 1); step on R (ct &); step on L to L (ct 2); step on R across in front of L (ct &).
- 12 Step on L (ct 1); step on R to R (ct &); step on L across in front of R (ct 2); step on R (ct &).
- 13 Step on L to L (ct 1); step on R across in front of L (ct &); step on L (ct 2) step on R to R (ct &).
- 14 Step on L across in front of R (ct 1); step on R (ct &); step on L to L (ct 2); pause (ct &).
- 15 Close R to L with sharp click (pinten) (ct 1); close R to L with sharp click (pinten) (ct 2).
- 16 Step on R (ct 1); step on L (ct &); step on R (ct 2); pause (ct &).

Sequence: Fig I, Fig II, Fig III, Fig IV, Fig V.

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