

## Călușul din Conțești

(Romania, South Muntenia)

In Southern Romania, there's a traditional belief (still held by a minority of people) that groups of mimes and dancers could work magic if all the rites were correctly observed, and to this end young men were initiated into the ritual of Caluș. This took place in secret and was performed by a *vătaf* (leader) who had inherited the knowledge of *descânțete* (magic charms) and the dance steps from his predecessor. On Whit Sunday, an odd-number (7-9-11) of these *Călușari* began their ritual dance, going from house to house, accompanied by a flag-bearer and a masked *Mut* (a mute who traditionally wore a red phallus beneath his robe and muttered sexual invocations), thus ensuring that each household was blessed with children and a bountiful harvest. This tradition is one of the oldest in Romania, from the period of the beginning of Christianity. Its origin is unknown, although there is similarity with other dances like *Morisco* (from the Iberian Peninsula) and *Morris* (from England). Actually, these dances are among the most famous men's dances in the Romanian repertoire.

This variation of *Călușul din Conțești* consists of two parts. The first one is *Hora din Căluș* (slow part of the music). The second is *Brăul din Conțești*

Pronunciation: KUH-loo-shool deen KOHN-tsheh-shtee

Music:

2/4 meter

Formation: Circle, hands free.

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

Echappé: jump on both ft in place, ft apart (ct 1); jump and click both ft together in air (ct &); step on L (land on L) (ct 2); scuff with R heel (ct &).

Meas

Pattern

HORA DIN CĂLUȘ (first dance)

FIGURE I *Plimbarea*

(Circle formation, L shoulder facing center, hands free, moving in LOD.)

- |       |  |
|-------|--|
| 1-2   | Introduction (no action).  |
| 3     | Bounce with L heel, raising R leg (knee bent 90°) in front (ct 1); touch with R heel in front (ct &); step fwd on R (ct 2); raise L leg (knee bent 45°) in front (ct &). |
| 4     | Bounce with R heel, raising L leg (knee bent 90°) in front (ct 1); touch with L heel in front (ct &); step fwd on L (ct 2); raise R leg (knee bent 45°) in front (ct &). |
| 5-6   | Repeat meas 3-4.   |
| 7     | Dance 1 Echappé.   |
| 8     | Small step fwd on R (ct 1); scuff with L heel (ct &); step fwd on L (ct 2).  |
| 9-14  | Repeat meas 3-6 twice (3 total).   |
| 15-16 | Repeat meas 7-8.   |

## Călușul din Conțești—continued

FIGURE II În două laturi

(Body slightly facing the moving direction.)

- 1 Step fwd on R (LOD) (ct 1); scuff fwd with L heel (ct &); step fwd on L (ct 2); scuff fwd with R heel (ct &).
- 2 Step fwd on R (ct 1); stamp L heel, no wt, turning 1/4 L (facing ctr) and lifting R heel (ct &); drop R heel, turning 1/4 to L (RLOD) (ct 2); stamp L, no wt (ct &).
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 5-6 Repeat meas 1-2.
- 7 Twist to L on both legs, ft apart, knees slightly bent (body facing ctr) (ct 1); twist to R on both legs, ft apart, knees slightly bent (body facing ctr) (ct 2).
- 8 Step on R (ct 1); step on L (ct &); step on R without wt (ct 2).
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.

FIGURE III

- 1 Facing ctr, step on R (ct 1); scuff L heel fwd (ct &); step on L (ct 2); scuff R heel fwd (ct &).
- 2 Step on R (ct 1); scuff L heel fwd (ct &); step on L (ct 2); step on R turning 1/4 to L (CCW), raising L leg slightly (ct &).
- 3 Step on L to L (ct 1); close R to L with sharp click (pinten), transferring wt to R (ct &); step on L to L (ct 2); close R to L with sharp click (pinten), transferring wt to R (ct &).
- 4 Step on L to L (ct 1); close R to L with sharp click (pinten), transferring wt to R (ct &); step on L turning 1/4 R (facing ctr) (ct 2); stamp with R (ct &).
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4, but do not stamp on meas 8, ct &.

FIGURE IV Plimbarea (variante)

- 1-2 Repeat Fig I, meas 1-2 facing ctr.
- 3-4 Repeat Fig I, meas 7-8, turning 1/2 to L (CCW).
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 (beg with back to ctr).

BĂUL DIN CONTESTI (second dance)FIGURE I Sârba

- 1 Facing ctr and moving to R, step on R to R (ct 1); step on L next to R (ct 2).
- 2 Step on R to R (ct 1); raise L leg in front (knee slightly bent) (ct 2).
- 3 Step on L across in front of R (ct 1); raise R leg (knee bent, ft behind) (ct 2).
- 4-15 Repeat meas 1-3 four more times (5 total).
- 16 Stamp on R in front (ct 1); pause (ct 2).

FIGURE II Floricica ruptă

- 1 Facing ctr, step on R to R (ct 1); step on L (ct 2).
- 2 Close R to L with sharp click (pinten), no wt (ct 1); pause (ct 2).
- 3-6 Repeat meas 1-2 twice (3 total).
- 7 Twist on both legs to L (knees bent, ft together) (ct 1); twist on both legs to R (knees bent, ft together) (ct 2).
- 8 Repeat meas 7.
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.

## Călușul din Conțești—continued

FIGURE III *Sărita*

- 1 Step on R to R (ct 1); step on L across in front of R (ct &); step on R (ct 2).
- 2 Step on L to L (ct 1); step on R across in front of L (ct &); step on L (ct 2).
- 3 Close R to L with sharp click (pinten) (ct 1); close L to R with sharp click (pinten) (ct 2).
- 4-12 Repeat meas 1-3 three more times (4 total).
- 13-14 Repeat meas 1-2.
- 15-16 Repeat meas 3 twice.

FIGURE IV *Sucita*

- 1 Moving to R, hop on L, turning 1/4 to R (ct 1); step fwd on R (facing LOD) (ct&); pause (ct 2); step fwd on L (facing LOD) (ct &).
- 2 Pause (ct 1); step fwd on R (LOD) (ct &); step fwd on L (LOD) (ct 2); twist on L, turning 1/4 to L (CCW), raising R leg (bent knee, R ft close to L) (ct &).
- 3-4 Pause.
- 5-12 Repeat meas 1-4 twice (3 total).
- 13 Repeat meas 1.
- 14 Pause (ct 1); step fwd on R (LOD) (ct &); step fwd on L (LOD) (ct 2); twist on L turning 1/4 to L (facing ctr), raising R leg (bent knee, R ft close to L) (ct &).
- 15 Step on R to R (ct 1); step on L across in front of R (ct &); step on R (ct 2).
- 16 Step on L to L (ct 1); stamp R in front (ct 2).

Sequence: First dance: Fig I, Fig II, Fig III, Fig IV  
 Second dance: Fig I, Fig II, Fig III, Fig IV

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