

Codraneasca din Valea Chioarului

Romania (Chioar, Maramures)

Codraneasca din Valea Chioarului (koh-druh-NASS-kuh deen VAHL-yah chee-YAHR-loo-ee), or “Forest of the Chioar Valley,” is characterized by a challenging rhythmic syncopation. The final figure, which is different for men and women, provides an especially spectacular blending of rhythms - a pleasure to learn.

Chioar dance melodies are original in their musicalities and follow an old structure. Some of the instruments used are the *cetera*, *contra* (accompanying violin), *gorduna* (a small base), *doaba* (drum) and *zongora* (a two-string lute).

- CD: *Sonia Dion and Christian Florescu Romanian Realm #2, Band 9*
- Rhythm: meter = 8/8 = 1/8+1/8+1/8+1/8+1/8+1/8+1/8+1/8; counted here as 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8.
- Formation: Closed circle of M and W solo dancers facing LOD.
- Styling: Upper body erect.

Meas	8/8 meter	Pattern
8	<u>INTRODUCTION</u> (no action)	
	I. <u>PREUMBLATA (PROMENADE)</u>	
1	With arms raised in front, fingers straight up and palms fwd at face level, step fwd on L in LOD (ct 1); raising R leg fwd with bent knee at right angles (thigh is parallel to floor), slap R thigh with flat R palm (ct 2); repeat cts 1-2 with opp ftwk and hands (cts 3-4); step fwd on L (ct 5); clap hands together at face level (ct 6); clap again while stepping fwd on R (ct 7); clap hands again (ct 8).	
2-3	Repeat meas 1 twice.	
4	Jump fwd onto both ft together with knees slightly bent (ct 1); clap hands fwd twice (cts 2-3); repeat cts 1-3 (cts 4-6); repeat cts 1-2, clapping once (cts 7-8).	
5-7	Repeat meas 1-3.	
8	Turning CCW so that upper body faces slightly L of ctr, stamp L (ct 1); clap hands twice in front of L shoulder (cts 2-3); turning upper body to face slightly R of ctr, repeat cts 1-3 with opp ftwk and direction (cts 4-6); turning to face ctr, close L to R (ct 7); facing ctr, clap once in front (ct 8).	

II. VÂNTUL (WIND)

Turning hands down and out, while lowering and opening arms to place hands on lower back with palms out, turn slightly to the L and fall gently onto L ft with slightly bent knee, as R ft, with knee bent, is raised fwd with a slight push in front of L shin (ct 1); straighten supporting L knee and face ctr, as R ft moves to R (ct 2); step on R beside L (ct 3); step on L beside R (ct 4); keeping hands on back, repeat steps of cts 1-4 with opp ftwk and direction (cts 5-8).

2-3 Keeping hands on back and alternating ftwk and direction, repeat meas 1 twice.

4 Leap onto L in place, raising R ft slightly in front of L (ct 1); hold (ct 2); repeat ct 1 with opp ftwk (ct 3); leap onto L in place, raising R to side with heel turned out (ct 4); click R heel to L (ct 5); hold (ct 6); clap hands in front twice (cts 7-8).

5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.

III. STAMPS (hands joined behind lower back)

1 Keeping L ft on floor and facing R of ctr, step on R in LOD (ct 1); drag L ft beside R (ct 2); continuing to move in LOD, step on L, R, L (cts 3-5); stamp on R, no wt (ct 6); step in LOD on R (ct 7); turning to face slightly L of ctr, stamp L, no wt, in RLOD (ct 8).

2 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk and direction.

3 Repeat meas 1.

4 Repeat Fig. II, meas 4.

5-8 Beginning in RLOD, repeat meas 1-4 with opposite ftwk and direction.

IV. VÂNTUL VARIANTA (WIND VARIATION): W's SEQUENCE

1-8 Ftwk is the same as for Fig. II; clapping sequences are given below. Arm movement in clapping is away from chest, fwd and slightly down, similar to the breast stroke in swimming: C=clap; N=no clap

1 N,C,N,C,N,C,N,C.

2 N,C,N,C,N,C,C,C.

3 Repeat meas 2.

4 N,N,N,N,N,N,C,C

5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.

IV. VÂNTUL VARIANTA (WIND VARIATION): M's SEQUENCE

The slapping hand is up in front, elbow bent 90°. The other is behind the back. The stance is proud, with body straight and tall during slapping.

1 Turning to face slightly L of ctr, step fwd on L (ct 1); lift on L while raising R leg in front, knee bent 90° (ct 2); slap outside of R heel with R hand (ct 3); touch ball of R ft in front, no wt (ct 4); repeat ct 2 (ct 5); slap R thigh with R hand (ct 6); step fwd on R (ct 7); lifting on R, turn to face ctr, while raising L leg fwd with knee bent 45° (ct 8).

- 2 Reversing arm positions, and turning to face slightly R of ctr, touch ball of L ft in front (ct 1); lift on R while raising L leg in front, knee bent 90° (ct 2); slap outside of L heel with L hand (ct 3); touch ball of L ft in front, no wt (ct 4); lifting on R, raise L leg fwd, knee bent 90° (ct 5); slap L thigh with L hand (ct 6); step fwd on L (ct 7); lift on L, raising R leg fwd, knee bent 45°, and turn to face ctr (ct 8).
- 3 Repeat meas 2 with opp ftwk and handwork.
- 4 Fall on both ft together in place (ct 1); slap R hand fwd on outside of R thigh and raise R leg fwd, knee bent 45° (ct 2); twisting lower R leg CCW, slap R hand backwards on outside of R heel (ct 3); touch ball of R ft fwd, no wt (ct 4); repeat cts 2-3 (cts 5-6); step slightly fwd on R (cts 7-8).
- 5 Facing slightly to R of ctr (L hand fwd), touch ball of L ft fwd, no wt (ct 1); raise L ft in front (ct 2); slap L hand on outside of L heel (ct 3); touch ball of L fwd, no wt (ct 4); repeat meas 1, cts 5-8 with opp ftwk and handwork.
- 6-7 Repeat meas 2-3 with opp ftwk and handwork.
- 8 Facing slightly L of ctr, touch ball of R ft fwd, no wt (ct 1); raising R leg in front, knee bent 45°, slap outside of R thigh fwd with R hand (ct 2); slap outside of R heel backwards with R hand (ct 3); touch ball of R ft fwd, no wt (ct 4); repeat meas 4, cts 5-8.

Sequence: Figs. I, II, III, IV (M+W); then repeat all.