

CORĂGHEASCA
(Romania)

Corăgheasca (co-rug-YAHS'-kah, from a dialect form of the word corabie, meaning "ship") is a dance name found in many places in Moldavia (eastern Romania). Dances bearing this name differ widely in their steps and music. The version described here is from Bacău county, and was originally danced by men only.

Music: Folkraft LP 33 Side B/2 Corăgheasca de la Colonești
2/4 meter

Formation: Dancers (originally M only) in an open circle or line.
Arms on shoulders.

MeasPatternVariation 1 - Basic step with 2 stamps

- 1 Facing very slightly L of ctr, hop on R ft (ct 1); still facing slightly L, step on L ft behind R (ct &); pause (ct 2); turning to face ctr, step on R ft to R (ct &).
- 2 Turning to face slightly R of ctr, step on L ft fwd in LOD, leading with L heel (ct 1); close R ft up to L (ct &); stamp onto L ft fwd in LOD (ct 2); pause, or, as some native dancers occasionally do, scuff R heel fwd (ct &).
- 3 Facing ctr, stamp R ft beside L, no wt (ct 1); stamp R ft again beside L, taking wt (ct 2);

Variation 2 - Basic step with "pas-de-basque"

- 1-2 Same as meas 1-2 of Variation 1.
- 3 Step R ft lightly (on ball of ft) in front of L (ct 1); step L in place (now behind R ft) (ct &); again step on R ft in front of L (ct 2); pause (ct &).

Variation 3 - "Rat-a-tat"

- 1 Same as meas 1 of Variation 1.
- 2 Facing ctr, step on L ft beside R, bending L knee slightly (ct 1); stamp R ft slightly sdwd R, taking wt on R ft and straightening knees to normal (ct &); repeat cts 1,& (cts 2,&).
- 3 Facing ctr, step on L ft beside R, bending L knee slightly (ct 1); stamp R beside L, no wt (ct &); stamp R ft slightly to R, taking wt (ct 2) pause (ct &).

Variation 4 - Basic step with R heel click

- 1-2 Same as meas 1-2 of Variation 1.
- 3 Facing ctr, click R heel against L heel, hopping on L ft (ct 1); leap onto R ft sdwd R (ct (2)).

CORĂGHEASCA (Cont'd)Variation 5 - Basic step with scuff and heel click

- 1-2 Same as meas 1-2 of Variation 1.
- 3 Facing ctr, land on both ft flat and apart (not far, about 6"), knees slightly bent (ct 1); rising off floor, click heels together in air (not exaggeratedly high) (ct &); land on R ft in place (ct 2); pause (ct &).

Note on sequence: The above variations are not to be considered as "figures" performed in a set sequence. Each dancer does the variation(s) he wishes at any given time. The only occasion on which the variations might be done in an agreed-upon sequence would be for presentation to an audience.

Presented by Dick Crum