

CRIHALMA
(Romania)

Mihai David learned Crihalma (CREE-hah-mah) when touring Romania in 1978 from Ion Vasiliu, director of Poenitza Ensemble from Brasov, Romania. The dance is from the region of Fagaras and comes from the village of Crihalma.

Record: Romania Romania, Vol. I. 2/4 meter.

Formation: Individual dancers in a line. Arm movements are free.

MeasPattern1-8 INTRODUCTION.FIGURE I.

- 1 Moving in RLOD, and facing ctr, do a grapevine step to the L by stepping: step R behind L (ct 1); step L to L (ct &); step R across L (ct 2); step L to L (ct &).
 2-3 Repeat action of meas 1 two more times (11 steps in all, except on last (&) ct leap fwd diag L on L).
 4 Jump diag fwd on both ft and land with knees bent (ct 1); bounce once on both ft (ct &); step on R while L lifts bkwd from knee (ct 2); hold (ct &).

FIGURE II.

- 1-2 In place, step on L (ct 1); with wt on L, extend R fwd and touch heel, toe, heel (cts &,2,&).
 3-4 Reverse ftwk of meas 1-2.
 5-8 Repeat action of meas 1-4.

FIGURE III.

- 1 In place, small leap on L (ct 1); touch R toe fwd (ct &); small leap on R (ct 2); touch L toe fwd (ct &).
 2 Small leap on L as R moves fwd low to ground (ct 1); reverse ftwk of ct 1 (ct &); repeat action of cts 1,& (cts 2,&).
 3-8 Repeat action of meas 1-2 three more times.

FIGURE IV.

- 1-2 Repeat action of meas 1-2, Figure III.
 3 Moving into circle, leap fwd on L (ct 1); move fwd by stepping R,L,R (cts &,2,&). Knees and body bend fwd slightly when moving fwd.
 4 Moving bkwd out of circle, step L,R,L,R. Straight while moving bkwd.
 5 In place step on L (ct 1); extend R fwd and touch heel, toe, heel (cts &,2,&).
 6-10 Reverse ftwk of meas 1-5.
 11-20 Repeat action of meas 1-10 two more times (four in all - in, out, in, out).

Repeat dance from beginning.

Presented by Mihai David