

Drumul Dracului

(Moldvai–Csángó, Rumania)

The “Moldvai–Csángó” people are a Hungarian-speaking group living on the eastern slopes of the Carpathian Mountains in Rumania. Ethnographically, they are divided into three groups: the Székely, the Northern, and the Southern Moldvai Csángós. Their geographic boundaries are more or less set up by a triangle consisting of the Rumanian towns of Adjud (south), Moinești (west), and Romăn (north), with Bacău in the center.

Their dance culture can be looked at in layers including archaic couple dances (Lapos Magyaros, Serénymagyaros) and may dances more akin to their Rumanian-speaking neighbors; often using the Rumanian nomenclature (Óves-Briul, Kezes, Korogászka, Drumul Dracului, DeDoi, Hoina, etc.)

In investigating the name “Drumul Dracului” (literally “the Devil’s Path”), Dick Crum informed me that a well-known “Strigatur” (dance call) goes as such:

“Faoie Verde Macului
Dați-i Drumul Dracului”

which essentially means “a green leaf of poppy, let’s dance like hell.” Most likely, the name comes from this final call.

The source for the dance was Zoltan Farkas, Ferenc Sára.

Pronunciation: DROO-mool DRAH-koo-loo-ee

Cassette: Kotansky Camp Tape – 1995

2/4, sometimes 6/8 meter

Formation: Closed circle with belt hold or V-pos.

Meas

Pattern

VARIATION I

Part A

- 1 Facing slightly R of ctr, step fwd on R (ct 1); step fwd on L (ct 2).
- 2 Step fwd on R (ct 1); turning to face ctr, close L to R (ct &); step on R to R turning to face L of ctr (ct 2).
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.

Part B

- 1 Facing ctr, step on R to R (ct 1); close L to R (ct &); brush R heel fwd with accent (ct 2); bounce slightly on L in place (ct &).
- 2-3 Repeat meas 1 twice.
- 4 Stamp R ft in place 3 times (no wt) (cts 1, &, 2).
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.

Drumul Dracului—continued

VARIATION IIPart A

- 1 Facing ctr, step on R to R (ct 1); step on L next to R (ct &); step on R to R (ct 2); step on L next to R (ct &).
- 2 Step on R to R (ct 1); stamp L beside R (no wt) (ct &); stamp L again beside R (no wt) (ct 2).
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.

Part B

- 1 Leap onto R in front of L with accent (lifting L ft up slightly in back) (ct 1); step on L in place (ct &); step back and slightly diag R on R (ct 2); step on L in place (ct &).
- 2-3 Repeat meas 1 twice.
- 4 Stamp R ft beside L three times (cts 1, &, 2).
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4,

VARIATION III. GrapevinePart A

- 1 In a running-prancing fashion, step on R to R (ct 1); step on L across and behind R (ct &); step on R to R (ct 2); step on L across and in front of R (ct &).
- 2 Step on R to R (ct 1); stamp L ft fwd twice (no wt) (cts &, 2).
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.

Part B

- 1 Leap onto R in front of L with accent (ct 1); step on L in place (ct &); step on R back and diag R (ct 2); jump onto both ft (about 16" apart) in place (ct &).
- 2-3 Repeat meas 1 twice.
- 4 Stamp R ft next to but slightly in front of L (no wt) (ct 1); stamp R out to R side (no wt) (ct &); stamp R next to but slightly in front of L (no wt) (ct 2); hold (ct &).
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.

VARIATION IV. Long Traveling StepPart A

- 1 Step on R to R (ct 1); step on L to R (ct &); step on R to R (ct 2); step on L to R (ct &).
- 2-3 Repeat meas 1 twice.
- 4 Step on R to R (ct 1); stamp L beside R (no wt) (ct &); stamp L beside R (no wt) (ct 2).
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 with opp ftwk and direction.

Drumul Dracului—continued**Part B**

1-8 Repeat Variation II, Part B, meas 1-8.

VARIATION V. Long Grapevine**Part A**

1-3 Repeat Variation III, Part A, meas 1-3.

4 Repeat Variation III, Part A, meas 2.

5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 with opp ftwk and direction.

Part B

1-8 Repeat Variation III, Part B, meas 1-8.

Presented by Steve Kotansky