

Fecioreasca

(Transylvania, Rumania)

Fecioreasca belongs to the family of men's dances characteristic of Transylvanian dance culture. Literally it means young men's dance and is known by the Hungarians as *Legenyés*. These dances are virtuosic in character and are truly a pinnacle in ethnic dance culture. The Rumanians, in comparison to Hungarians, tend to dance the Fecioreasca in a group form where all dancers perform the same or very similar steps. The Hungarians perform the *Legenyés* as a solo or more individual in form. The rhythmical structure of the Fecioreasca, like that of the *Invirtita*, is worth discussing. It is generally syncopated and often difficult to ascribe to a particular meter. It is therefore preferable to think in terms of dancer's beats or accents. The basic breakdown of beats is 3: Long-short-short (or Slow-quick-quick), but this can be further broken up.

Some basic Fecioreasca rhythms are:

2/4	● ↓ ● ↓
7/8	● ↓ ● ↓ ● ↓
8/8	○ ↓ ● ↓ ● ↓ or ● ↓ ● ↓ ● ↓ = SQS
9/8	○ ↓ ● ↓ ● ↓
10/8	○ ↓ ● ↓ ● ↓

These steps come from the village of Vistea de Jos in South-Eastern Transylvania and were learned from Zoltan Farkas in Budapest.

Pronunciation: fetch-eeor-YAH-skah

Record: NOROC 2708 B

Formation: Men, solo, in a circle facing center.

Rhythm: 9/8 meter
Dancer's cts

1	2	3	or	1	&	2	3
○ ↓	● ↓	● ↓		● ↓	● ↓	● ↓	● ↓
S	q	q+		q-	s	q	q+

here s=q+

Meas

Pattern

- TRAVELING STEP** (S q q+).
- 1 Step on R ft (knee bent, with down accent) to L behind L ft (ct 1); hop on R ft slightly to L and bring L ft sharply up to pos in front of R knee (ct 2); step on L ft to L, hips twist slightly to L (ct 3).
 - 2 Step on R ft (knee bent, with down accent) to L in front of L ft, hips turn to R (ct 1); hop on R ft and bring L ft up and behind R knee (ct 2); step on L ft to L, hips turn to R (ct 3).
 - 3-6 Repeat meas 1-2 twice.
 - 7 Repeat meas 1.
 - 8 (q- s q q+) Facing ctr with wt on L ft (knee bent), touch R heel in front of L ft (ct 1); touch ball of R ft (partial wt) to R of L ft (ct &); close R ft sharply to L ft (ct 2); fall onto L ft in place freeing R ft (ct 3).
 - 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.

Fecioreasca (continued)

- REST STEP I** (q- s (q q+)) + (S q q+) Note: (q q+) = S+.
- 1 Preparing to leap onto R ft, bring R ft (knee extended) out and in front (ct 1); leap onto R ft across and in front of L ft (ct &); hold (ct 2); step on L ft diag back to L (ct 3). Note: R leg sweeps low fwd and across before leaping.
- 2 Close R ft sharply to L ft with wt transfer (ct 1); step on L ft diag back to L (ct 2); step on R ft fwd and slightly diag R (ct 3).
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 5-6 Repeat meas 1-2.
- 7 L ft moves in a reverse bicycle motion diag to L while preparing to leap onto L ft in place (ct 1); leap onto L ft in place and bring R ft (knee bent and turned out) to L knee (ct &); hold but prepare to leap onto R ft in place (ct 2); leap onto R ft in place and bring L ft up to diag L side (ct 3).
- 8 Leap onto L ft in place and bring R ft (knee bent) to L knee (ct 1); bounce on both ft together (ct 2); bounce on L ft and free R ft (ct 3).
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8 but on last ct of meas 16 (meas 8), bounce on both ft (ct 3).

- REST STEP II** (q- s S+) + (S q q+).
- 1 Facing R of ctr, bounce/lift on L ft and raise R ft slightly (ct 1); tap R ft slightly to R (ct &); step on R ft fwd with accent (ct 2); hold (ct 3).
- 2 Step on L ft fwd (across and in front of R ft)(ct 1); turning to face ctr, tap R heel to R (ct 2); step R ft to R with slight accent (ct 3).
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 5-6 Repeat meas 1-2 but, on last ct of meas 6 (ct 3), jump fwd onto both ft with accent and knees bent (ct 3).
- 7 Chug back on both ft (knees extended)(ct 1); fall onto R ft in place and lift L ft up and in back (ct &); touch L toe behind and to R of R ft (knee bent)(ct 2); lift on R ft and bring L ft around and to L (ct 3).
- 8 Close L ft sharply to R ft (knees bent)(ct 1); step on R ft slightly fwd (knees extended)(ct 2); step on L ft fwd (knees bent)(ct 3).
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.

- SLAP SEQUENCE I** (q- s q q+) + (S q q+).
- 1 Slap L hand against L thigh and lift/hop on L ft bringing R ft up and out to R side (knee bent)(ct 1); slap R hand against R outer heel out to R side (ct &); step on R ft (almost a running step) in place (ct 2); step on L ft (almost running) in place (ct 3).
- 2 Bend L knee slightly and touch R toe back (accented)(ct 1); bounce on L ft and bring R ft fwd low (ct 2); tap R heel fwd (ct 3).
- 3 Repeat meas 1.
- 4 Run on R ft in place and lift L ft up slightly in front (ct 1); slap L hand against L thigh as L ft does small reverse bicycle swing fwd (ct &); leap onto L ft in place and slap R hand against R boot top (ct 2); bring R ft down (leg straight) in front (ct 3).
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.

Dance repeats from beginning. During 2nd time through, replace Slap Sequence I with Slap Sequence II.

Fecioreasca (continued)

- SLAP SEQUENCE II** (q- s q q+) + (S q q+).
- 1 With wt on L ft, R ft corkscrews (from knee down) from L side 2 o'clock CCW and slap R hand against R thigh (ct 1); as R heel comes around, slap R hand against R outer heel (ct &); R ft continues around, hold on L ft (ct 2); leap onto R ft across and in front of L ft and slap R hand against L inner heel behind R knee (ct 3).
 - 2 Step onto L ft in place and begin to "unwind" corkscrew CW (R knee down to R ft)(ct 1); slap R hand against R inner boot top (leg straight and fwd)(ct 2); leap onto R ft in place and slap R hand against L inner heel behind R knee (ct 3).
 - 3-4 Leap onto L ft in place and repeat meas 3-4 of Slap Sequence I.
 - 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 of Slap Sequence II.

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