

Hoina

(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.)

While investigating the name “Hoina,” I turned to Dick Crum who found a possible cognate in the Rumanian shepherd’s game, “Oina” which interestingly is derived from the Turkish “Oyen”—dance or game. Another possibility comes from the Rumanian “Hoinar”—wanderer, vagabond, or, according to one friend, hobo. This dance has certain characteristics common to German dances.

The source for the dance was Zoltan Farkas, Ildiko Toth.

Pronunciation: HOY-nah

Cassette: Kotansky Camp Tape – 1995

2/4 meter

Formation: Couples in a circle, facing center, varsouvienne position: M to L of W with his R hand joined with her R over her R shldr; M L hand holds W’s L in front of his chest.

Meas

Pattern

BASIC

Part A

- 1 Both starting with R, step fwd to ctr on R (ct 1); step fwd on L (ct 2).
- 2 Step fwd on R (ct 1); stamp L ft beside R (no wt) (ct 2).
- 3-4 Backing out, repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 5-16 Repeat meas 1-4 three times (4 times in all), except, W takes wt onto R ft on the last ct of meas 16.

Part B

- 1 M: Step on R to R side (ct 1); close L to R (no wt) (ct 2), arms begin to shift to other side.
W: Step on L to L (ct 1); close R to L (no wt) (ct 2).
- 2 M: Step on R to R (ct 1); stamp L beside R (no wt) (ct 2).
W: Step on L to L (ct 1); stamp R beside L (no wt) (ct 2).
During this step the varsouvienne pos is reversed and cpls may acknowledge one another.
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 5-16 Repeat meas 1-4 three times.

Hoina—continued

VARIATION ON BASIC. PART APart A

- 1 Repeat Basic, meas 1.
 2 Step fwd on R (ct 1); step on L beside R with accent (ct ah just before ct 2); step on R in place with accent (ct 2).
 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk and direction.
 5-16 Repeat meas 1-4 three times.

Part B

- 1-16 Repeat Basic, Part B.

TRAVELLING CCWPart A

- 1-16 Cpls turning to face CCW in circle travel fwd with alternating Basic Step.
 Note: Do not back up—continue fwd.

Part B

- 1-16 Repeat Basic, Part B.

TRAVELLING CWPart A

- 1-16 Cpls turning to face CW in circle travel fwd with alternating Basic Step.
 Note: Do not back up—continue fwd.

Part B

- 1-16 Repeat Basic, Part B.

VARIATION ON BASIC. PART B

- 1-2 W: Turn slowly CW (L, R, L, stamp) under M's R hand.
 3-4 W: Turn slowly CCW back to pos (R, L, R, stamp).
 M: Continue Basic B step.
 5-16 Repeat meas 1-4 three times.

Presented by Steve Kotansky