

Horă din pusta banatului

Banat, Romania

There are two large families of dances in Romania, called *Sârba* and *Hora*. The *Hora* is certainly the most popular and most widespread form of dance, being found in every region. Its popularity is partly because the number of dancers, men or women, is unlimited and anyone can join the circle, no matter what their dance level is. The term *Hora* is also synonymous with "ball" (for example, the Sunday festival in a particular village), at which the *Hora* is not necessarily danced.

Usually the *Hora* is danced in a large closed circle with hands held in the W position. However, in some areas (northern Oltenia and Banat), the dance is done in an open circle with a leader who may chose to take the line into a spiral.

The particular feature of *Horă din pusta Banatului* is the musical interpretation. Although the sequence of steps stays the same, the melodic line changes as the pace becomes faster and faster.

Pronunciation: HOH-ruh deen poos-TAH bah-nah-TOO-loo-ee

CD: *Sonia Dion & Cristian Florescu Romanian Realm* Vol. 2, Band 6 2/4 meter

Formation: Open mixed circle. Hands joined, right arm down in front, left arm bent (from elbow) in back. Facing directly and moving in LOD.

Steps: Basic step:
 Meas 1: Step fwd on R (ct 1); close L ft near R (with wt) (ct &); step fwd on R (ct 2).
 (cts 1&2 = one Two-step)
 Meas 2: Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk.
 Meas 3: Step fwd on R (ct 1); step fwd on L (ct 2).

Meas

Pattern

8 meas INTRODUCTION (No action)

MELODY A (8 x 16 meas.)

Dance Basic step. Style: The steps are very small and gliding (no bouncing), body straight and with a very proud attitude.

MELODY B (6 x 16 meas.)

Hands joined in W-pos, moving in LOD but facing ctr (slightly diag to R) (same hand position for Melodies B, C and D).

Dance Basic step. Style: The steps are more energetic, bouncing, and the two-steps change to running two-steps.

Note: This melody begins with the 2 walking steps of the basic step, but they change to light running steps afterwards.

Horă din pusta banatului—continued

MELODY C (2 x 16 meas.)

Dance Basic step. Style: The running two-steps change to pas-de-basque, almost the same style as Melody B but faster.

Note: This melody begins also with 2 running steps.

MELODY D (SÂRBA) (4 x 16 meas.)

Dance Basic step. Style: The steps are very, very energetic, sharp and quick. The running two-steps are smaller and very fast.

Note: This melody begins with the 2 running two-steps.

VARIATION FOR MELODY D

Use the basic step or the step described below.

- 1 Step on L in place and raise R ft in front of L shin (ct 1); wt still on L, knee bends and pumps slightly while R leg describes very small fwd bicycle (ct 2).
- 2 Do 2 running steps (small) starting with R ft (R, L) (cts 1,2).
- 3 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk.

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