

Invîrtita from Bonțida

(Transylvania, Rumania)

The village of Bonțida lies 30 km north of the city of Cluj-Napoca in Central Transylvania. Its population is 57% Rumanian, 26% Hungarian, and 17% Gypsy. The traditional dance cycle, as is common throughout Transylvania, begins with the men's dances. Here, they are the Bărbuno (Verbunk) and Fecioreste des. These are followed by the couples dances: Țiganește rar, Invîrtita, and Țiganește iute. The Invîrtita is of particular interest in that it is definitely the most uniquely "Rumanian" of the dances yet it, too, has much in common with the Hungarian dances of the Mezőség Region as I know them. Unlike many of the Invîrtitas from Transylvania, this one is not in a syncopated rhythm. The melody is hauntingly beautiful and very close to the Hungarian music of the region. It is worth mentioning that the Gypsy musicians in Bonțida play for both the Rumanian and Hungarian functions and have surely contributed to the crossover of melodies and musical structures obviously affecting the dance culture as well.

Pronunciation: in-vuhr-TEE-tah from BOHN-tsee-dah

Cassette: Garlic Press Productions GPP-004

4/4 meter

Formation: Couples scattered about the dance floor. M's R hand joined down low to W's L hand. If M is considered to face fwd, W begins facing slightly R of fwd: $\bar{X}\bar{O}$ and slightly behind him.

Meas

Pattern

OPENING STEP.

- 1 **Man:** Step on L ft diag fwd L and swing joined hands fwd (ct 1); close R ft to L ft and swing joined hands back (ct 2); step on R ft fwd and swing joined hands fwd (hands will remain fwd)(ct 3); close L ft (no wt) to R ft (hands remain fwd)(ct 4).
Woman: Facing R of M's fwd and slightly behind M, step on L ft diag fwd L (hands swing fwd)(ct 1); close R ft to L (hands swing back)(ct 2); step on L ft diag fwd L (hands swing fwd)(ct 3); close R ft (no wt) to L ft (ct 4).
- 2 **Man:** Step on L ft to L and turn about 90° CW to R to face ptr (hands remain fwd low) (ct 1); slight pull with R hand as a signal (ct 2); step on R ft fwd beginning to cross over and change pos with W. Note: This crossover is slow and slightly rounded as if M and W are walking around a central point (cts 3-4).
Woman: Turning about 90° CCW to L to face M, step on R ft bkwd (ct 1); bring L ft to R ft (no wt) and lead it fwd through (ct 2); crossing over, step on L ft fwd (ct 3); close R ft to L ft (ct &); step on L ft fwd and begin to turn CCW to L (ct 4).
- 3 **Man:** Turning slowly about 90° CCW to L, step on L ft fwd (cts 1-2); continuing slow CCW turn, step on R ft back to face ptr again (cts 3-4).
Woman: Turning slowly CCW to L to face M, step on R ft to R (ct 1); close L ft to R ft (ct 2); step on R ft to R (ct 3); close L ft (no wt) to R ft (ct 4).
- 4 **Man:** Step on L ft fwd to crossback and begin to lead W with R hand back to place (ct 1-2); turn slowly about 90° CW to R and step on R ft fwd (R hand ends up behind R side)(cts 3-4).
Woman: Step on L ft fwd crossing back to place (ct 1); bring R ft beside L ft and continue it fwd through (ct 2); step on R ft diag fwd R beginning to turn CW to R (ct 3); close L ft to R ft (ct &); continue to turn CW to R and step on R ft fwd (ct 4).
Note: W ends up facing twd M but is ready to be lead through starting pos on first beat of next meas.

Invîrta from Bonțida (continued)

TRANSITION.

- 1-3 M&W: Repeat meas 1-3 of Opening Step but, during ct 3 of meas 3, as M and W turn to face each other, M lifts joined hands up above head and places his L hand on W's R upper arm. W's R hand moves twd M's L shldr-blade under armpit (ct 3); in this pos, sink (plie) on R ft in place.

COUPLE TURN.

- 1 M&W: Moving into new pos (face-to-face shifted so that W is on M's R, M places R hand on W's L shldr-blade under armpit, his L hand rests on her R upper arm. Her R hand is on his L shldr-blade and her L hand holds his R upper arm), and beginning to rotate as a cpl CW (M's inner R ft is the pivot point), both step on L ft fwd (ct 1); step on R ft beside L ft (ct &); step on L ft fwd (ct 2); step on R ft fwd (ct 3); step on L ft beside R ft (ct &); step on R ft fwd (ct 4).
- 2 M&W: Continuing to turn CW as a cpl, step on L ft fwd (ct 1); step on R ft fwd (ct 2); step on L ft beside R ft (ct &); step on R ft fwd (ct 3); step on L ft fwd (ct 4).
- 3 M&W: Continuing to turn CW as a cpl, step on R ft fwd (ct 1); step on L ft fwd (ct 2); step on R ft fwd (ct 3); step on L ft beside R ft (ct &); step on R ft fwd (ct 4).
- 4 M&W: Continuing to turn CW as a cpl, step on L ft fwd (ct 1); step on R ft fwd (ct 2); Man: continue to move fwd step on L ft fwd (ct 3); step on R ft beside L ft (ct &); stopping fwd movement, step on L ft fwd (ct 4). During cts 3,&4, M leads W to his R side into a semi-open side-by-side pos. He retains his R hand on her L shldr-blade but drops L hand down to hold her R hand in front of them. W turns CW to R backing into the ending pos by stepping on L ft fwd into CW turn (ct 3); close R ft to L ft continuing turn (ct &); step on L ft in place or slightly back to stop movement (ct 4).
- 5-8 M&W: Repeat meas 1-4 with opp ftwk and direction but, note*: M's meas 1 is slightly different. M: step on R ft diag back R and begin to turn to R as he leads W across (ct 1); close L ft to R ft (ct &); step on R ft to R and join in closed pos with W (ct 2); the dance continues as written above but with opp ftwk turning CCW.

"YOKE" POSITION COUPLE TURN + CSAPAS.

- 1 Man: Release L hand holding W's R shldr-blade and lower R hand (joined to W's L) and turn slowly 360° CCW to L (do not release joined hands) by stepping on L ft in place (ct 1); step on R ft beside L ft (ct &); step on L ft in place (ct 2); step on R ft in place (ct 3); step on L ft in place (ct 4). During this slow CCW turn, bring L hand slowly up and across body to place on W's far R shldr in front of her body (W turns 180° CW during M's step) M's R hand ends up behind his back holding W's L hand.
- Woman: Turning slowly 180° CW to R, step on L ft in place (ct 1); step on R ft in place (ct &); step on L ft in place (ct 2); step on R ft in place (ct 3); step on L ft in place (ct &); step on R ft in place (ct 4). W places R hand on M's L upper arm which is stretched across W's chest.
- 2 Man: Turning CCW as a cpl in this "Yoke" pos, step on R ft fwd (ct 1); step on L ft fwd (ct 2); step on R ft fwd (ct 3); step on L ft fwd (ct 4).
- Woman: Turning CCW as cpl in this "Yoke" pos and continuing "cifra" or two-step fwd, step on L ft fwd (ct 1); close R ft to L (ct &); step on L ft fwd (ct 2); step on R ft fwd (ct 3); close L ft to R ft (ct &); step on R ft fwd (ct 4).
- 3 M&W: Repeat meas 2 above ("Yoke").

Invirtita from Bontida (continued)

- 4 **Man:** Release R hand holding W's L hand allowing W to turn CCW to L 180° and place L hand on her R shldr-blade or upper arm. Close R ft sharply to L ft (knees extended and standing on balls of both ft)(ct 1); jump sharply down onto both ft (knees bent) with accent (ct &); hold (ct 2); lift/hop on L ft and slap R hand against R outer heel out at R side (ct &); step on R ft fwd (knee bent) while L ft remains on ground (ct 3); L ft kicks fwd preparing for large R ft scissor-kick fwd (ct &); leap onto L ft in place and scissor-kick R ft fwd (knee extended) and, slap R hand to R boot top (ct 4).
- Woman:** As M releases L hand and begins jump, turn slowly 180° to L CCW by stepping on L ft fwd (ct 1); step on R ft to R side to face same direction as M and end on his L side (ct 2); close L ft to R ft and hold (ct 3); hold (ct 4);
- 5 **Man:** Repeat meas 4 above ("Yoke").
- Woman:** Hold (cts 1-4).
 Note*: Meas 5 is only done the first time that this step is danced. Every subsequent time the step is only 4 meas long.

COUPLE TURN WITH WOMAN'S TURN UNDER MAN'S ARM.

- 1 **Man:** Leading W from M's L side to R side by pushing with L hand (at her R shldr-blade) and leading her L hand with his R hand which is held in front above head level, step on R ft to L crossing behind L ft and turning CW while leading (ct 1); step on L ft to L and continue to turn CW (ct 2); step on R ft in place ending turn which is somewhere between 90° and 180° CW (ct 3); step on L ft in place (ct &); step on R ft in place (ct 4).
- Woman:** Being led across from M's L side to his R and turning about 180° CW during lead, step on L ft across to R (ct 1); step on R ft beside L ft (ct &); step on L ft fwd (ct 2); step on R ft slightly fwd (ct 3); step on L ft slightly fwd of R ft in preparation to turn CCW to L (ct 4). During this step W's L hand is held by M's R hand above and in front of W's head. R hand is left to R side naturally.
- 2 **Man:** Turning about 90° CCW to L, step on L ft to L and assist W's CCW turn by cranking R arm 360° around CCW (ct 1); close R ft to L ft (no wt) and finish cranking turn (ct 2); step on R ft back as joined hands (M's R) drops down in back and begins low swing fwd (ct 3); step on L ft back to R ft, arm continues swing (ct &); step on R ft back and hand reaches pos front and waist level (ct 4).
- Woman:** Turning 180° CCW to L under own L hand, step on R ft fwd over L ft (ct 1); step on L ft beside R ft (ct &); step on R ft fwd to finish turn (ct 2); allowing M to lead joined hands down and front in a broad swing, step on L ft fwd (ct 3); step on R ft fwd (ct &); step on L ft (ct 4).
- 3 **Man:** Cpl will be rotating CCW around a central point (generally their joined hands). Step on L ft back and bring R hand (W's L) back next to R shldr (ct 1); close R ft (no wt) to L ft and push R hand (W's L) fwd at shldr level (ct 2); turning 90° CW to R, step on R ft fwd (slight accent) and take W's L hand in own L hand by pushing L hand across to R (ct 3); wt remains on R ft as L hand initiates large dishrag CCW turn of W (ct 4).
- Woman:** Allowing M to lead and guide joined hands, step on R ft fwd while moving CCW around joined hands (ct 1); touch L ft (no wt) beside R ft (ct 2); preparing to turn 360° CCW under L hand, step on L ft fwd (ct 3); at M's initiation just before ct 4, step on R heel fwd and begin CCW turn to L (grace note (ct uh) beat before ct 4); finish 360° CCW turn by stepping on L ft fwd (ct 4).

Invîrtita from Bonțida (continued)

- 4 **Man:** Moving fwd in CCW direction, step on L ft fwd and crank W, initiating a second 360° turn (somewhat slower than the first one)(ct 1); close R ft to L ft and complete turn of W (ct 2); step on R ft fwd and push joined hands (M's L, W's L) fwd at shldr level (ct 3); close L ft to R ft (ct &); step on R ft fwd (ct 4).
Woman: Repeat meas 3, cts just before 4, and ct 4 (heel turn) but somewhat slower than first time (cts uh,1); step on R ft fwd (ct 2); step on L ft fwd (ct 3); hold (ct 4).
- 5 **Man:** Continuing to move fwd in CCW direction, step on L ft and bring joined hands down and up to back (ct 1); step on R ft beside L ft (ct &); step on L ft fwd (ct 2); repeat action of meas 3, ct 3-4 above (cts 3,4)(first turn of two).
Woman: Step on R ft fwd (ct 1); step on L ft beside R ft (ct &); step on R ft fwd (ct 2); repeat meas 3 cts 3-4 above (cts 3,uh,4).
- 6 **M&W:** Repeat meas 4 above.
7 **M&W:** Repeat meas 5 above.
8 **M&W:** Repeat meas 4 above but end up with W on M's L side facing same direction as M.

Note: With each subsequent repeat of the Couple Turn following the Woman's Turn Under Arm, M's step is as follows: leading W into CW Couple Turn, step on L ft diag back L (ct 1); close R ft to L ft (ct &); step on L ft to L (ct 2); turning to face CW in couple turn pos, step on R ft fwd into turn (ct 3); repeat meas 1, cts 3,&,4 of Couple Turn (cts 3,&,4).

SEQUENCE:

Opening Step 2x = 8 meas
Transition 1x = 3 meas
Couple Turn 1x (L & R) = 8 meas
"Yoke" Position Turn 1x = 5 meas
Woman's Turn Under Arm 1x = 8 meas
Couple Turn 1x (L & R) = 8 meas
"Yoke" Position Turn 1x = 4 meas
Woman's Turn Under Arm 1x = 8 meas
Couple Turn 1x (L & R) = 8 meas
"Yoke" to end of music

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