

Oromnia

(Romania)

From the Muntenia region of southeastern Romania. The villages of Romania's southern plainland (along the Danube) are the richest repository for the "classical" type of circle dance known as the *hora*. Dances in this category number in the hundreds; they are usually large circles of men and women with hands joined, moving in a slow-to-moderate 2/4 or 6/8 meter. with relatively simple steps in various directions.

Oromni is a *hora* of a special subcategory, the so-called "stamping" horas (*hora bătute*), characterized by faster-tempo, syncopated stamps, scuffs, and taps, traveling two-steps, and arm swinging. Natives associate these features with Gypsy dance style and it is generally agreed that these "stamping" horas have been subject to Gypsy influence. Many of their names reflect this: *Țigăneasca* (from Romanian *tigan* "Gypsy"), *Romneasca* (from *rom*, the Gypsies' name for themselves), and it is possible that the name *Oromnia* is also derived from *rom*. Many U.S. and Canadian folk dancers are already familiar with other horas of this subcategory, e.g., *Ca la ușa cortului* and *Hora la patru*. Learned from Dick Crum, 1984.

Pronunciation: oh-ROHM-nee-ah

Music: Folkraft LP-33, Side B/10

2/4 meter

Formation: Circle, mixed men and women, hands joined at shoulder level in W-pos.

Meas

Pattern

FIGURE

- 1-2 Facing slightly R of ctr and moving fwd in LOD, take 2 two-steps R-L-R, L-R-L (cts 1,&,2 1,&,2).
- 3 Turning to face ctr, leap onto R ft from the front, displacing L ft bkwd and up, at the same time swinging joined hands down and slightly back (ct 1); step on L to R behind R ft (ct &); step on R to R, bringing hands up twd W-pos again (ct 2).
- 4 With hands again in W-pos, step on L in place (ct 1); stamp R ft in place without wt (ct 2).
- 5 Very quick heel-drop on L followed by very quick tap with R heel (both movements within the first ct) (ct 1); stamp R with wt (ct &); pause (ct 2); scuff L heel slightly fwd (ct &).
- 6 Stamp L to L with wt (ct 1); step on R a bit behind L (ct &); step on L beside R (ct 2); scuff R heel a bit fwd (ct &).
- 7 Step on R to R (ct 1); step on L slightly behind R (ct &); step on R to R (ct 2); scuff L heel fwd, ending with L ft raised slightly in front (ct &).
- 8 Hold (ct 1); heel-drop on both heels with L heel slightly fwd (ct &); heel drop on both heels again, with ft side by side (ct 2).

Notes by Dick Crum

Presented by Erik Bendix