

ALUNELUL CA LA SADOVA

Romanian

- PRONUNCIATION:** ah-loo-NEH-lool cah lah sah-DOH-vah
- The -ul ending, pronounced "-oo" (colloquial) or "-ool" (more formal usage) is a form of the Romanian definite article, the equivalent of English "the;" hence alunelu = "hazelnut," alunelul = "the hazelnut."
- TRANSLATION:** Traditionally, it has been thought that "Alunelul" means "little hazelnut." Thus, this would be the "little hazelnut dance" as done in Sadova. Romanian folklore specialist, Theodor Vasilescu, favors the meaning as a contraction of "A lu Nelu" (where Nelu is the name "John" so the meaning is "John's dance") because, with the exception of Floricica ("little flower"), dances are rarely named for trees, plants, or flowers.
- SOURCE:** Dick Oakes learned this dance from Nicolaas Hilferink who learned it in 1982 while on a research grant to Romania from the Canadian government.
- BACKGROUND:** This dance is from the Oltenia ethnographic region of Romania. Sadova, to which the name of the dance refers, is a village in what is now Moldavia (Moldava), just southeast of the town Calaraş (Kalaraş). Oltenia, also called Lesser Wallachia, with the alternate Latin names Wallachia Minor, Wallachia Alutana, and Wallachia Caesarea in use between 1718 and 1739. It is a historical province and geographical region of Romania. It is situated between the Danube, the Southern Carpathians, and the Olt river (although counties in the east extend beyond the river into Muntenia in some areas).
- MUSIC:** Electrocord (LP) ST-CS 0185, Side B, Band 5
- FORMATION:** Cir or lines of mixed M and W with hands joined and held down in "V" pos.
- METER/RHYTHM:** 2/4
- STEPS/STYLE:** LOW HOP: A bounce on the same ft where the toe does not leave the floor. Generally, ftwk is precise and controlled. In Fig II, the ftwk is flat-footed and has a heavy feeling with the body following the directional action of the ftwk.

MEAS

MOVEMENT DESCRIPTION

INTRODUCTION

1-16

No action.

I. FIGURE ONE

- 1 Facing ctr, low hop on L (ct &); step R next to L (ct 1)
 1 Step R next to L (ct 1); step L across in front of R (ct &); step R in place (ct 2);
 step L in place of R, replacing it, as R kicks fwd (ct &);
 2 Step R fwd (ct 1); kick L fwd (ct 2); low hop on R (ct &).
 3 Moving bwd, step L (ct 1); step R across in front of L (ct &); step L bwd (ct 2);
 low hop on L (ct &);
 4 Repeat action of meas 3 with opp ftwk.
 5-8 Repeat action of meas 1-4 with opp ftwk.

II. FIGURE TWO

- 1 Facing ctr and moving CCW to R in LOD, step R swd (ct 1); step L in front of
 R (ct &); step R swd (ct 2); step L next to R heel (ct &),
 2 Step R swd (ct 1); step L in front of R (ct &); step R swd (ct 2); low hop on R
 (ct &).
 3 Step L swd (ct 1); step R across in front of L (ct &); step L back in place (ct 2);
 low hop on L (ct &).
 4 Repeat action of meas 3 with opp ftwk.
 5-8 Repeat action of meas 1-4 with opp ftwk.

III. FIGURE THREE

- 1 Step on ball of R in front of L (ct 1); step L in place (ct &); step on ball of R in
 back of L (ct 2); step L in place (ct &);
 2 Step on ball of R next to L (ct 1); step L in place (ct &); step on ball of R next to
 L (ct 2); step L in place (ct &);
 3 Step on ball of R next to L (ct 1); step L in place (ct &); step R in place (ct 2);
 pause (ct &).
 4 Scuffing L heel next to R, swing L leg fwd (ct 1); brushing ball of L next to R,
 swing L leg bwd (ct 2);
 5 Step L bwd (ct 1); step R next to L (ct &); step L bwd (ct 2); pause (ct &).
 6 Step R fwd (ct 1); step L next to R (ct &); step R fwd as L kicks fwd with
 straight knee (ct 2); lift L extend leg, slightly bending L knee (ct &).
 7 Leap fwd onto L (ct 1); drop onto R in front of L, bending R knee, as body
 bends over and R shldr leans twd ctr (ct &); straightening and moving swd away
 from ctr, step L swd (ct 2); step R next to L (ct &);
 8 Continuing to move swd away from ctr, step L swd (ct 1); step L next to R (ct
 &); step L swd, turning to face ctr (ct 2); pause (ct &).
 9-16 Repeat action of meas 1-8.