

CIOFUL DE LA VATRA DORNEI

Romanian

PRONUNCIATION: CHOH-fool deh lah VAH-trh dohr-NEIH

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 ciofu = "dance," cioful = "the dance."

TRANSLATION: Dance of the people of Vatra Dornei

SOURCE: Dick Oakes learned this dance from Nicolaas Hilferink who introduced it to folk dancers in the United States.

BACKGROUND: The dance is from the Moldavia (Moldova in Romanian) ethnographic region of Romania. Theodor Vasilescu says that the Cioful (or Ciuful) dance type is often found in the cycle of the village dances in Bucovina, the northern part of Moldavia. In the Romanian language, "ciuf" means a person with dishevelled hair.

Vatra Dornei is situated in the historical region of Bukovina and is the fifth largest urban settlement in the county. It was declared a municipality in 2000, being the newest and smallest municipality in the county. The city administers three villages: Argestru, Roșu, and Todireni. Because of its mountain surroundings, the city is a well known spa and ski resort, one of the oldest resorts in Romania, It is connected to the Romanian national railway system and has two railway stations, Vatra Dornei and Vatra Dornei Băi, both historical monuments.

MUSIC: Electrocord (LP) ST-CS 0185, side A, band 2.

FORMATION: Closed or open cir of mixed M and W with hands joined and held down in "V" pos.

METER/RHYTHM: 2/4

STEPS/STYLE: Fig I, meas 1-2: Move L shldr twd ctr (ct 1); square shldrs twd ctr (ct &); move L shldr twd ctr (ct 2); square shldrs twd ctr (ct &).

Fig II, meas 1-4: Take large steps swd.

MEAS

MOVEMENT DESCRIPTION

INTRODUCTION

1-16

No action.

I. FIGURE ONE

- 1 Facing ctr and dancing in place, step L across in front of R (ct 1); step R back in place (ct &); step L next to R (ct 2); step R next to L (ct &);
- 2 Step L across in front of R (ct 1); step R back in place (ct &); stamp L next to R, taking wt (ct 2); pause (ct &);
- 3 Facing and moving to R in LOD, step R on heel with toe raised (ct 1); step L next to R (ct &); step R on heel with toe raised (ct 2); step L next to R (ct &);
- 4 Continuing to move in LOD, step R on heel with toe raised (ct 1); step L next to R (ct &); stamp R next to L, taking wt (ct 2); pause (ct &).
- 5-8 Repeat action of meas 1-4.

II. FIGURE TWO

- 1 Facing to L and moving in RLOD, step L (ct 1); pause (ct &); hop L as extended R swags out swd in an arc (ct 2); continue swing of R in arc in front of L (ct &);
- 2 Step R across in front of L, beg to bend body slightly fwd (ct 1); remain on R as body continues to bend slightly fwd (ct &); hop R, facing ctr as body beg to straighten (ct 2); remain in R as body fully straightens (ct &);
- 3 Large step L swd (ct 1); step R across in back of L (ct 2);
- 4 Large step L swd (ct 1); hop L (ct 2).
- 5-6 Repeat action of Fig II, meas 1-2, with opp ftwk.
- 7 Facing ctr, step R swd on heel with toe raised (ct 1); step L next to R, bending supporting knee (ct &); step R swd on heel with toe raised (ct 2); step L next to R, bending supporting knee (ct &);
- 8 Repeat action of Fig II, meas 7.
- 9-15 Repeat action of Fig II, mas 1-7, with opp ftwk.
- 16 Step L swd on heel with toe raised (ct 1); step R next to L, bending supporting knee (ct &); step L swd (ct 2); pause (ct &).

III. FIGURE THREE

- 1 Facing ctr and moving bwd away from ctr, hop L, raising R knee in front (ct 1); step R bwd (ct &); pause (ct 2); step L bwd (ct &);
- 2 Pause (ct 1); step R bwd (ct &); step L bwd (ct 2); pause (ct &);
- 3 Moving fwd twd ctr, hop L, raising L knee inf front (ct 1); step R fwd (ct &); pause (ct 2); step L fwd (ct &);
- 4 Pause (ct 1); step R fwd (ct &); step L fwd (ct 2); pause (ct &);

- 5 Touch R heel diag fwd (ct 1); step R next to L (ct 2);
- 6 Touch L heel diag fwd (ct 1); step L next to L (ct 2);
- 7 Jump to both ft (ct 1); pause (ct 2);
- 8 Fall onto R in place, lifting R in back with bent knee (ct 1); stamp L next to R (ct 2).
- 9-14 Repeat action of Fig III, meas 1-6;
- 15 FACING ctr, step R swd on heel with toe raised (ct 1); step L next to R, bending supporting knee (ct &); step R swd on heel with toe raised (ct 2); step L next to R, bending supporting knee (ct &);
- 16 Step R swd on heel with toe raised (ct 1); step L next to R, bending supporting knee (ct &); stamp R next to L (ct 2); pause (ct &).
- Repeat entire dance from beg.