

JOC DE LEAGĂNE

Romanian

PRONUNCIATION: zhok deh LEAH-guh-neh

TRANSLATION: Dance of the cradle

SOURCE: Dick Oakes learned this dance from Nicolaas Hilferink who learned it from Theodor Vasilescu.

BACKGROUND: This dance is a ceremonial dance from Maramureş. Maramureş is a valley totally enclosed by mountains. Oaş, Gutâi, Țibleş and Rodnei to the west and south, Maramureş Mountains and Ukrainian Carpathians (Wooded Carpathians) to the east and north, with a thin opening at Khust, a city located on the Khustets River. It is forested and not easily accessible. The dance honors the midwife on her birthday. It is believed that when a child reaches 1 to 1-1/2 years of age, the village women would gather, put their children in front of their chests, and do this ceremonial dance to show that their children were strong and in good health.

MUSIC: Electrocord (LP) ST-CS 0185, side A, band 9. (NOTE: The label on the first pressing of this record was incorrect, however, the album cover is correct.)

FORMATION: Cir of W facing diag to R, L hand on own L shldr, R arm extended neighbor to the R with R hand grasping neighbor's L hand.

METER/RHYTHM: 2/4

STEPS/STYLE: Mr. Hilferink writes, "If men insist on dancing [Joc de Leagane], they should dance on the outside of the women's circle."

MEAS

MOVEMENT DESCRIPTION

INTRODUCTION

1-16 No action.

I. FIGURE ONE

1 Facing to R and moving in LOD, touch R next to L (ct 1); step R fwd (ct 2);

2 Touch L next to R (ct 1); step L fwd (ct 2);

3 Step R fwd (ct 1); step L fwd (ct 2);

4 Step R fwd (ct 1); step L next to R (ct &); step R fwd (ct 2).

5-8 Continuing in LOD, repeat action of meas 1-4 with opp ftwk.

II. FIGURE TWO

- 1 Turning to face ctr and raising hands above head height, step R swd, leaving L in place (ct 1); lean over R (ct 2);
- 2 Transfer wt to L (ct 1); lean over L (ct 2);
- 3 Transfer wt to R with slight lean to R (ct 1); step L next to R, straightening body (ct 2);
- 4 Step R swd (ct 1); lean over R (ct 2);
- 5-7 Repeat action of Fig II, meas 1-3, with opp ftwk;
- 8 Step L swd (ct 1); close R to L without wt (ct 2).

III. FIGURE THREE

- 1 Facing ctr, step R bwd, beginning to slowly lower hands twd "W" pos (ct 1); step L bwd, continuing to slowly lower hands (ct 2);
- 2 Small step R bwd, leaving L in place and continuing to slowly lower hands (ct 1); transfer wt fwd onto L (ct &); transfer wt bwd to R, ending with hands in "W" pos (ct 2);
- 3-4 Repeat action of Fig III, meas 1-2, fwd with opp ftwk, raising hands high;
- 5 Turning to face R and moving to R in LOD, step R fwd (ct 1); step L fwd (ct 2) step R next to L (ct &)
- 6 Continuing in LOD, step L fwd (ct 1); step R fwd (ct 2);
- 7 Continuing in LOD, step L fwd (ct 1); step R fwd (ct 2); step L next to R (ct &);
- 8 Continuing in LOD, step R fwd (ct 1); step L fwd (ct 2).

IV. FIGURE FOUR

- 1 Continuing in LOD, step R(ct 1); step L (ct &); step R (ct 2); lightly stamp L next to R without wt (ct &);
 - 2 Turning to face L in RLOD, step L (ct 1); step R fwd (ct 2);
 - 3-4 Turning to face L and moving in RLOD, repeat action of Fig IV, meas 1-2, with opp ftwk;
 - 5 Turning to face R and moving in LOD, step R fwd, swaying arms slightly away from ctr (ct 1); step L fwd, swaying arms slightly twd ctr (ct 2);
 - 6-8 Repeat action of Fig IV, meas 5, three more times, slowly lowering arms to "W" pos on final meas.
- Turning to face R in LOD and placing hands in Formation pos, repeat entire dance from beg.

/ Mama când m-o leganat,
Numai de dor mi-o cântat. /

When my mother was rocking me,
She was singing of longing.

/ Mi-o cântat de dor si-o plîns.
Dorul de mine s-o prins. /

She was singing of longing and I cried.
I've been caught by longing.

/ De când port dor la inima, /
Numai am nici o hodîna,
Nici la prînz si nici la cîna.

Since my heart is longing,
I have no respite
Neither at noon nor at evening.

/ Cîte doruri rele-s grele.
Tate-s pa bratele mele. /

How many longings? All are deep and bad.
All are in my arms.

/ Altul moare de batrîn,
Nu sti dorul de ce-i bun. /

One dies being old
Not knowing what's the good of longing.

/ Dar eu stiu ca l-am purtat
De cîd mama mi-o cântat. /

But I know I've carried it
Since my mother sang.

Ai la la la la . . .

Ai la la la la . . .