

ROATA DIN BIHOR

Romanian

PRONUNCIATION:roh-AH-tah deen bih-HOHR

TRANSLATION: Wheel from Bihor

SOURCE: Dick Oakes learned this dance from Mihai David who learned it when he was with his brother, Alexandru, in the *Romanian State Folk Ensemble* during the years 1963 to 1965.

BACKGROUND: The dance is from Bihor Județ (county) in Crișana. Its capital city is Oradea. Bihor Județ lies in the the mountains of the northwestern region of Transylvania, which shares dance forms with other regions of the area. The origin of the name Bihor is uncertain, except that it likely takes its name from an ancient fortress in the current commune of Biharia. Another theory is that the name comes from bour, the Romanian term for aurochs (from the Latin word bubalus). The animal once inhabited the lands of northwestern Romania. Under this theory, the name changed from buar to buhar and to Bihar and Bihor.

MUSIC: Gypsy Camp Vol. II (LP) GC 5201-II.

FORMATION: Closed cir of mixed M and W with hands on near shldr of neighbors in "T" pos.

METER/RHYTHM: 4/4

STEPS/STYLE: Light and happy.

MEAS

MOVEMENT DESCRIPTION

INTRODUCTION

None.

I. HEEL-TWIST

- 1 Low, soft hop L (ct 1); touch R heel fwd (ct 2); twisting heels to R, close R to L (ct 3); twist heels to L, retaining wt on R (ct 4);
- 2 Repeat action of meas 1 with opp ftwk;
- 3-24 Repeat action of meas 1-2 eleven more times.

II. LEAP-STAMP

- 1 Facing ctr but twisting hips slightly on the leaps, leap L (ct 1); stamp R next to L (ct 2); leap R (ct 3); stamp L next to R (ct 4);
- 2 Leap L (ct 1); swinging straight R leg across L, step R across and to L of L ft, "embracing" the L ft (ct 2); step L in place (ct 3); step R swd (ct 4);
- 3 Leap L (ct 1); stamp R next to L (ct 2); leap R (ct 3); stamp L next to R (ct 4);

4 Step L swd (ct 1); swing straight R leg fwd and around to side (ct 2); low hop L (ct 3); step R in back of L (ct 4);

5-24 Repeat action of Fig II, meas 1-4, five more times.

Repeat entire dance from beg.