

TREI PĂZEȘTE DIN BÎRCA

Romanian

PRONUNCIATION: treh puh-ZESH-teh deen BEUR-kah

TRANSLATION: Three times beware! from Bîrca

SOURCE: Dick Oakes learned this dance from Sunni Bloland who learned it during her 1967-68 research trip to Romania from Anca Guirchescu, dance ethnographer at the Institute of Ethnography and Folklore in București (Bucharest). Ms. Bloland taught the dance at the 1969 Balkan/Near-East Festival in Portland, Oregon.

BACKGROUND: There are many dances from the southern part of Romania called Trei Păzește, meaning "three-times beware!" or "three-times look out!" This one is from the town of Bîrca in the Romanian ethnographic region of Oltenia. Most of the dances bearing this title utilize variations on a cross-step, often with a leg-thrust at the end of the motif to change direction. The dance may be done on any occasion. Bîrca is a quaint village along one of the roads between Craiova and the Danube river. Bîrca is also the birthplace of Adrian Păunescu, a well known Romanian poet who is renowned for putting together "Cenaclul Flacăra," a cultural and artistic movement, that served as an outlet for young aspiring artists.

MUSIC: Naroc Records (7" EP) NA 1054-EP, Side A, Band 2.

FORMATION: Short lines of mixed M and W, hands joined with the second neighbor on each side in a "back-basket" hold ("B" pos).

METER/RHYTHM: 2/4

STEPS/STYLE: The steps are light with the wt usually taken on the ball of the ft. All stamps are without wt.

MEAS

MOVEMENT DESCRIPTION

INTRODUCTION

1-4 No action.

I. THREE TIMES BEWARE!

1 Step R fwd (ct 1); kick L fwd gently (ct 2);
2 Step L bwd (ct 1); touch R about even with L toe (ct 2).

3-4 Repeat action of meas 1-2.

II. SINGLE CROSS

1 Facing diag R, lunge R without wt (ct 1); draw R sharply back to L (ct 2);

- 2 Lunge R without wt (ct 1); draw R sharply back to L (ct 2);
3 Lunge R without wt (ct 1); draw R sharply back to L with a "click," taking wt and
displacing L, which causes L to shoot out diag bwd (ct 2); step L diag bwd (ct &);
4 Draw R sharply back to L with a "click," taking wt and displacing L, which causes L to
shoot out diag bwd (ct 1); step R diag bwd (ct &); draw R sharply back to L with a "click,"
taking wt and displacing L, which causes L to shoot out diag bwd (ct 2); step R diag bwd
(ct &).

III. TRAVELING R AND L

- 1 Facing fwd, step R diag bwd (ct 1); step L in place (ct &); step R across in front of L (ct 2);
step L in place (ct &);
2 Step R diag bwd (ct 1); step L in place (ct &); step R across in front of L, bending R knee
and, at the same time, thrusting L strongly diag fwd to L (ct 2); pause (ct &).
3 Facing fwd, step L diag bwd (ct 1); step R in place (ct &); step L across in front of R (ct 2);
step R in place (ct &);
4 Step L diag bwd (ct 1); step R in place (ct &); step L across in front of R, bending L knee
and, at the same time, thrusting R strongly diag fwd to R (ct 2); step L swd (ct &).

IV. DOUBLE CROSS

- 1 Facing fwd, step R diag bwd (ct 1); step L across in front of R (ct &); step R in place (ct
2); step L diag bwd (ct &);
2 Step R across in front of L (ct 1); step L in place (ct &); step R diag bwd (ct 2); step L
across in front of R (ct &).

Repeat entire dance from beg.