

Briul de la Făgăraș

Pronounced: Fah gohr ahsh.
Origin: S.E. Transylvania - Romania.

Făgăraș is a town in the western part of Judet Brasov. It is also the name given to a sub zone of the larger folklore zone of South Transylvania. This dance belongs to the category of Carpathian Briu diffused among the villages situated along the roads which shepherds took each year from the South Carpathians to the grazing grounds of the Danube meadows and Dobrogea. The simpler variants of the Carpathian Briu such as this one from Făgăraș are done by both men and women although I suspect this one leans heavily on the masculine side due to the high leaps and leg gestures called for in certain motifs.

Formation: Short lines of M and W.
Position: Hands on shoulder
Music: 2/4
Rhythm: There are several rhythmic motifs in this dance - some of them requiring two measures. e.g.

Description: For purposes of this, a = slow; q = quick.

Part I.

Facing slightly to R and moving to R.

| Meas. | cts. | |
|-------|------|--|
| 1-2 | Q | Stamp R. in place |
| | S | Step R (accented) to R. |
| | S | Leap back on L, flipping R foot high in front of L so that lower R leg is parallel to floor! |
| | Q | Leap R to R. |
| | S | Step L slightly in front of R (accented). |

Repeat Part I seven more times. (8 times in all.)

Part II.

| | | |
|-----|---|---|
| 1 | S | Hop L as R swings (knee straight) across L. R toe touching the floor. |
| | S | Hop L as R swings diag. R. Repeat toe touching. |
| 2 | Q | Hop L moving slightly fwd. |
| | Q | Step R. |
| | S | Step L as R kicks fwd a bit in front- accented. |
| 3-4 | Q | Hop L, moving bkw. |
| | S | Step R. |
| | S | Step L |
| | Q | Step R fwd (accented) |
| | S | Step L fwd. |

Continued...

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Part II.

Repeat Part II. three times. (4 times in all)

Part III.

Moving to R.

| Meas. | cts. | | |
|-------|--------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | S | Hop L clicking R to L. | |
| | S | Hop L clicking R to L. | |
| | Q | Hop L. | |
| 3-4 | Q | Step R. | |
| | S | Step L (accented). | |
| | Q | Stamp R. | } Same as Meas 1-2 Part I. |
| | S | Step R (accented) | |
| | S | Leap L back of R. | |
| Q | Leap R to R. | | |
| S | Step L alightly in front of R. | | |

Repeat Part III three more times. (4 times in all.)

Part IV.

| | | | |
|-----|---|--|-----------------------------|
| 1 | S | Hop L in place as R swings across L (knee straight). | |
| | S | Hop L in place as R swings diag. R (knee straight). | |
| 2 | S | Hop L in place as R swings across in back (knee bent). | |
| | S | Hop L in place as R swings diag. R (knee straight). | |
| 3-4 | Q | Hop L bkw. | } Same as Meas 3-4 Part II. |
| | S | Step R. | |
| | S | Step L. | |
| | Q | Step R fwd (accented). | |
| | S | Step L. | |

Repeat Part IV. three more times (4 times in all).

Repeat dance from the beginning.