## Călușul din Conțești

(South Muntenia, Romania)

In Southern Romania, there's a traditional belief (still held by a minority of people) that groups of mimes and dancers could work magic if all the rites were correctly observed, and to this end young men were initiated into the ritual of *Căluş*. This took place in secret and was performed by a *vătaf* (leader) who had inherited the knowledge of *descântece* (magic charms) and the dance steps from his predecessor. On Whit Sunday, an odd-number (7-9-11) of these *Căluşari* began their ritual dance, going from house to house, accompanied by a flag-bearer and a masked *Mut* (a mute who traditionally wore a red phallus beneath his robe and muttered sexual invocations), thus ensuring that each household was blessed with children and a bountiful harvest. This tradition is one of the oldest in Romania, from the period of the beginning of Christianity. Its origin is unknown, although there is similarity with other dances like *Morisco* (from the Iberian Peninsula) and *Morris* (from England). Actually, these dances are among the most famous men's dances in the Romanian repertoire.

This variation of *Căluşul din Conțești* consists of two parts. The first one is Hora din Căluş *(slow part of the music). The second is* Brâul din Conțești.

<b>PRONUNCIATION:</b>	KUH-loo-shool deen KOHN-tsheh-sht(ee)
MUSIC:	Sonia Dion & Cristian Florescu Romanian Realm Vol. 1, Band 9
FORMATION:	circle, hands free
STEPS:	Pinten (stirrup) Romanian dancer's expression for close one ft to the other
	with a sharp click.

## METER: 2/4

PATTERN

Meas Count

## Hora din Căluş (first dance)

## Figure 1: Plimbarea

		(Circle formation, L shoulder facing center, hands free, moving in LOD)
1-2		Introduction (no action)
3	1	Bounce with L heel, raising R leg (knee bent 90°) in front
	&	Touch with R heel in front
	2	Step on R fwd
	&	Raise L leg (knee bent 45°) in front
4	1	Bounce with R heel, raising L leg (knee bent 90°) in front
	&	Touch with L heel in front
	2	Step on L fwd
	&	Raise R leg (knee bent 45°) in front
5-6		Repeat meas. 3-4
7	1	Echappé (jump on both feet in place, ft apart)
	&	Jump and click both feet together in the air
	2	Step on L (land on L)
	&	Scuff with R heel
8	1	Small step on R fwd
	&	Scuff with L heel
	2	Small step on L fwd
9-14		Repeat meas. 3-4, three times
15-16		Repeat meas. 7-8

		Figure 2: în două laturi (body slightly facing the moving direction)
1	1	Step on R fwd (LOD)
1	&	Scuff with L heel fwd
	$\frac{\alpha}{2}$	Step on L fwd
	&	Scuff with R heel fwd
2	1	Step on R fwd
2	&	Step on R find Stamp with L heel, turning $\frac{1}{4}$ t. to the left (facing center) and lifting R heel
	$\frac{\alpha}{2}$	Drop R heel, turning $\frac{1}{4}$ t. to the left (RLOD)
	&	Stamp on L
3-4	a	Repeat meas. 1-2 with opposite ftwk and direction
5-6		Repeat meas. 1-2
7	1	In place, twist on both legs, ft apart, knees slightly bent to the left (body facing
,	1	center)
	2	In place, twist on both legs, ft apart, knees slightly bent to the right (body facing
	-	center)
8	1	Step on R
-	&	Step on L
	2	Step on R without wt
9-16		Repeat meas. 1-8
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		Figure 3 (facing center)
1	1	Step on R
	&	Scuff with L heel fwd
	2	Step on L
	&	Scuff with R heel fwd
2	1	Step on R
	&	Scuff with L heel fwd
	2	Step on L
	&	Fall on R turning (1/4 t.) to the left raising L leg slightly
3	1	Step on L to the left
	&	Close R to L with a sharp click (pinten), transfer weight to R
	2	Step on L to the left
	&	Close R to L with a sharp click (pinten), transfer weight to R
4	1	Step on L to the left
	&	Close R to L with a sharp click (pinten), transfer weight to R
	2	Step on L turning (1/4 t.) to the right (facing center)
	&	Stamp with R (no weight)*
5-8		Repeat meas. 1-4
		* second time, do not Stamp on R
1.0		Figure 4: Plimbarea (variante)
1-2		Execute meas. 3-4, fig.1 (facing center)
3-4		Execute meas. 7-8, fig.1, turning $(\frac{1}{2}t.)$ to the left

5-8 Repeat meas. 1-4 (starting back to the center)

Figure 1': Sârba (facing the center, moving to the right11Step on R to the right21Step on R to the right2Raise L leg (slightly bent knee) in front31Step L across in front of R2Raise R leg (bent knee, ft behind)4-15Repeat meas. 1-3, four more times (5 total)161Step D across in front of R2PauseFigure 2': Floricica ruptá (facing center)11Step on R.2Pause2Pause3-6Repeat meas. 1-2, two more times (3 total)71Twist on both legs to the left (knees bent, ft together)2Twist on both legs to the right38Repeat meas. 1-8Figure 3': Sărita11Step on R8Repeat meas. 1-8Figure 3': Sărita11Step on R21Step on R21Step on R31Close R ft to L ft with a sharp click (pinten)22Step on R21Step on R21Step on R31Close R ft to L ft with a sharp click (pinten)22Step on L31Close R ft or L ft with a sharp click (pinten)22Step on R31Close R ft or L ft with a sharp click (pinten)412Repeat meas. 1-2, three more times (4 total)13 <t< th=""><th></th><th>Brâul</th><th>din Conțești (second dance)</th></t<>		Brâul	din Conțești (second dance)
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<ul> <li>Step on L</li> <li>Close R ft to L ft with a sharp click (pinten) without wt</li> <li>Pause</li> <li>Repeat meas. 1-2, two more times (3 total)</li> <li>T wist on both legs to the left (knees bent, ft together)</li> <li>Twist on both legs to the right (knees bent, ft together)</li> <li>Repeat meas. 7</li> <li>Repeat meas. 1-8</li> <li>Figure 3': Sarita</li> <li>Step on R to the right</li> <li>Step on R</li> <li>Step on R</li> <li>Step on R</li> <li>Step on R</li> <li>Step on L</li> <li>Step on L</li> <li>Step on R</li> <li>Close R ft to L ft with a sharp click (pinten)</li> <li>Step on R</li> <li>Close R ft to L ft with a sharp click (pinten)</li> <li>Close R ft to L ft with a sharp click (pinten)</li> <li>Close L ft to R ft with a sharp click (pinten)</li> <li>Close L ft to R ft with a sharp click (pinten)</li> <li>Close L ft to R ft with a sharp click (pinten)</li> <li>Close L ft to R ft with a sharp click (pinten)</li> <li>Close L ft to R ft with a sharp click (pinten)</li> <li>Hop on L turning (¼ t.) to the right</li> <li>Step on R fwd (facing LOD)</li> <li>Pause</li> <li>Step on L fwd (LOD)</li> <li>Twist on L turning (¼ t.) to the left, raise R leg (bent knee, R ft close to L)</li> <li>A Pause</li> <li>Fuse 4 meas. 1-4, two more times (3 total)</li> </ul>	1	1	
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<ul> <li>Twist on both legs to the right (knees bent, ft together)</li> <li>Repeat meas. 7</li> <li>Repeat meas. 1-8</li> <li>Figure 3': Sărita</li> <li>Step on R to the right</li> <li>Step on R to the right</li> <li>Step on R</li> <li>Step on L to the left</li> <li>Step on L</li> <li>Close R ft to L ft with a sharp click (pinten)</li> <li>Close R ft to L ft with a sharp click (pinten)</li> <li>Close L ft to R ft with a sharp click (pinten)</li> <li>Close L ft to R ft with a sharp click (pinten)</li> <li>Close L ft to R ft with a sharp click (pinten)</li> <li>Repeat meas. 1-2</li> <li>Repeat meas. 3, 2 times</li> <li>Figure 4': Sucita (moving to the right)</li> <li>Hop on L turning (¼ t.) to the right</li> <li>Step on R fwd (facing LOD)</li> <li>Pause</li> <li>Step on L fwd (LOD)</li> <li>Step on L fwd (LOD)</li> <li>Twist on L turning (¼ t.) to the left, raise R leg (bent knee, R ft close to L)</li> <li>Au</li> <li>Pause</li> <li>Figure 4': A two more times (3 total)</li> </ul>		1	
<ul> <li>Repeat meas. 7</li> <li>Repeat meas. 1-8</li> <li>Figure 3': Sărita</li> <li>Step on R to the right</li> <li>Step on R to the right</li> <li>Step on R</li> <li>Step on R</li> <li>Step on L to the left</li> <li>Step on L</li> <li>Close R ft to L ft with a sharp click (pinten)</li> <li>Close L ft to R ft with a sharp click (pinten)</li> <li>Close L ft to R ft with a sharp click (pinten)</li> <li>Close L ft to R ft with a sharp click (pinten)</li> <li>Close L ft to R ft with a sharp click (pinten)</li> <li>Repeat meas. 1-3, three more times (4 total)</li> <li>Hop on L turning (¼ t.) to the right</li> <li>Step on R fwd (facing LOD)</li> <li>Pause</li> <li>Step on R fwd (LOD)</li> <li>Step on L fwd (LOD)</li> <li>Repeat meas. 1-4, two more times (3 total)</li> </ul>	1		
9-16       Repeat meas. 1-8         Figure 3': Sărita         1       1       Step on R to the right         &       Step L across in front of R         2       Step on R         2       1       Step on L         2       1       Step on L to the left         &       &       Step on L         3       1       Close R ft to L ft with a sharp click (pinten)         2       Close L ft to R ft with a sharp click (pinten)         2       Close L ft to R ft with a sharp click (pinten)         4-12       Repeat meas. 1-3, three more times (4 total)         13-14       Repeat meas. 1-2         15-16       Repeat meas. 3, 2 times         Figure 4': Sucita (moving to the right         &       Step on R fwd (facing LOD)         2       Pause         &       Step on L fwd (facing LOD)         2       1         2       Pause         &       Step on R fwd (LOD)         2       Step on L fwd (LOD)         &       Twist on L turning (¼ t.) to the left, raise R leg (bent knee, R ft close to L)         3-4       Pause         5-12       Repeat meas. 1-4, two more times (3 total)	0	2	
Figure 3': Sărita         1       1         1       1         2       Step on R to the right         &       Step L across in front of R         2       Step on R         2       1         2       Step on L to the left         &       Step R across in front of L         2       Step on L         3       1         2       Close R ft to L ft with a sharp click (pinten)         2       Close L ft to R ft with a sharp click (pinten)         2       Close L ft to R ft with a sharp click (pinten)         4-12       Repeat meas. 1-3, three more times (4 total)         13-14       Repeat meas. 3, 2 times         Figure 4': Sucita (moving to the right         4       Repeat meas. 3, 2 times         Figure 4': Sucita (moving to the right)         1       1         1       Hop on L turning (¼ t.) to the right         &       Step on R fwd (facing LOD)         2       Pause         &       Step on R fwd (facing LOD)         2       Step on L fwd (LOD)         &       Twist on L turning (¼ t.) to the left, raise R leg (bent knee, R ft close to L)         3-4       Pause			
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<ul> <li>Step on R</li> <li>Step on L to the left</li> <li>Step R across in front of L</li> <li>Step on L</li> <li>Close R ft to L ft with a sharp click (pinten)</li> <li>Close L ft to R ft with a sharp click (pinten)</li> <li>Close L ft to R ft with a sharp click (pinten)</li> <li>Repeat meas. 1-3, three more times (4 total)</li> <li>Repeat meas. 3, 2 times</li> </ul> Figure 4': Sucita (moving to the right) 1 1 Hop on L turning (¼ t.) to the right <ul> <li>&amp; Step on R fwd (facing LOD)</li> <li>Pause</li> <li>&amp; Step on R fwd (LOD)</li> <li>Step on L fwd (LOD)</li> <li>Wist on L turning (¼ t.) to the left, raise R leg (bent knee, R ft close to L)</li> <li>Pause</li> <li>Twist on L turning (¼ t.) to the left, raise R leg (bent knee, R ft close to L)</li> </ul>			· ·
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<ul> <li>Step on L</li> <li>Close R ft to L ft with a sharp click (pinten)</li> <li>Close L ft to R ft with a sharp click (pinten)</li> <li>Close L ft to R ft with a sharp click (pinten)</li> <li>Repeat meas. 1-3, three more times (4 total)</li> <li>Repeat meas. 1-2</li> <li>Repeat meas. 3, 2 times</li> </ul> Figure 4': Sucita (moving to the right) Hop on L turning (¼ t.) to the right <ul> <li>&amp; Step on R fwd (facing LOD)</li> <li>Pause</li> <li>&amp; Step on R fwd (LOD)</li> <li>Step on R fwd (LOD)</li> <li>Step on L fwd (LOD)</li> <li>Step on L fwd (LOD)</li> <li>&amp; Twist on L turning (¼ t.) to the left, raise R leg (bent knee, R ft close to L)</li> <li>Pause</li> <li>Fwist on L turning (¼ t.) to the left, raise R leg (bent knee, R ft close to L)</li> </ul>	2		*
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<ul> <li>15-16 Repeat meas. 3, 2 times</li> <li>Figure 4': Sucita (moving to the right)</li> <li>1</li> <li>1</li> <li>Hop on L turning (<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> t.) to the right</li> <li>&amp; Step on R fwd (facing LOD)</li> <li>2</li> <li>Pause</li> <li>&amp; Step on L fwd (facing LOD)</li> <li>2</li> <li>1</li> <li>Pause</li> <li>&amp; Step on R fwd (LOD)</li> <li>2</li> <li>Step on L fwd (LOD)</li> <li>2</li> <li>Step on L fwd (LOD)</li> <li>&amp; Twist on L turning (<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> t.) to the left, raise R leg (bent knee, R ft close to L)</li> <li>3-4</li> <li>Pause</li> <li>5-12</li> <li>Repeat meas. 1-4, two more times (3 total)</li> </ul>			
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<ul> <li>3-4 Pause</li> <li>5-12 Repeat meas. 1-4, two more times (3 total)</li> </ul>			÷ · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
5-12 Repeat meas. 1-4, two more times (3 total)	2 4	α	
13 Repeat meas. I			
	13		kepeat meas. I

- 14 1 Pause
  - & Step on R fwd (LOD)
  - 2 Step on L fwd (LOD)
  - & Twist on L turning (<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> t.) to the left, raise R leg (bent knee, R ft close to L) (facing center)
- 15 1 Step on R to the right
  - & Step L across in front of R
  - 2 Step on R in place
- 16 1 Step on L to the left
  - 2 Stamp on R in front

Final pattern: First dance : F1 + F2 + F3 + F4

Second dance : F1' + F2' + F3' + F4' + F1' + F2' + F3' + F4'.

Strigaturi\* for Calus

Hai iauzi una Hai iauzi doua Haida taica sus cu ea Hap hap halaisa

Translation

Listen for one Listen for two Go ahead, my friend, lift up Hop hop halaisa (untranslatable!)

\* Shouting/chanting