

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 *Căluș*. This took place in secret and was performed by a *vătaf* (leader) who had inherited the knowledge of *descânțece* (magic charms) and the dance steps from his predecessor. On Whit Sunday, an odd-number (7-9-11) of these *Călușari* 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 *Călușul din Conțești* consists of two parts. The first one is *Hora din Căluș* (*slow part of the music*). The second is *Brâul din Conțești*.

PRONUNCIATION: 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 Căluș (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)
 & Scuff with L heel fwd
 2 Step on L fwd
 & Scuff with R heel fwd
- 2 1 Step on R fwd
 & Stamp with L heel, turning $\frac{1}{4}$ t. to the left (facing center) and lifting R heel
 2 Drop R heel, turning $\frac{1}{4}$ t. to the left (RLOD)
 & Stamp on L
- 3-4 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 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

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 ($\frac{1}{4}$ 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 ($\frac{1}{4}$ t.) to the right (facing center)
 & Stamp with R (no weight)*
- 5-8 Repeat meas. 1-4
 * second time, do not Stamp on R

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)

Brâul din Conțești (second dance)

Figure 1': Sârba (facing the center, moving to the right)

- | | | |
|------|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | Step on R to the right |
| | 2 | Step on L close to R with wt |
| 2 | 1 | Step on R to the right |
| | 2 | Raise L leg (slightly bent knee) in front |
| 3 | 1 | Step L across in front of R |
| | 2 | Raise R leg (bent knee, ft behind) |
| 4-15 | | Repeat meas. 1-3, four more times (5 total) |
| 16 | 1 | Stamp on R in front |
| | 2 | Pause |

Figure 2': Floricica ruptâ (facing center)

- | | | |
|------|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | Step on R to the right |
| | 2 | Step on L |
| 2 | 1 | Close R ft to L ft with a sharp click (pinten) without wt |
| | 2 | Pause |
| 3-6 | | Repeat meas. 1-2, two more times (3 total) |
| 7 | 1 | Twist on both legs to the left (knees bent, ft together) |
| | 2 | Twist on both legs to the right (knees bent, ft together) |
| 8 | | Repeat meas. 7 |
| 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 to the left |
| | & | Step R across in front of L |
| | 2 | 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) |
| 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)

- | | | |
|------|---|--|
| 1 | 1 | Hop on L turning ($\frac{1}{4}$ t.) to the right |
| | & | Step on R fwd (facing LOD) |
| | 2 | Pause |
| | & | Step on L fwd (facing LOD) |
| 2 | 1 | Pause |
| | & | Step on R fwd (LOD) |
| | 2 | Step on L fwd (LOD) |
| | & | Twist on L turning ($\frac{1}{4}$ 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) |
| 13 | | Repeat meas. 1 |

- | | | |
|----|---|--|
| 14 | 1 | Pause |
| | & | Step on R fwd (LOD) |
| | 2 | Step on L fwd (LOD) |
| | & | Twist on L turning ($\frac{1}{4}$ 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