

CIULEANDRA

(Romania)

Mihai David presented Ciuleandra (choo-LAN-druh) at the 1972 Kolo Festival in San Francisco, and again at the 1973 University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp. He learned the dance while performing with the Romanian State Folk Dance Ensemble during the years 1963-65. The dance comes from the region of Oltenia in southern Romania.

MUSIC: Record: FLDR-A "The Lark". S-1, B-4. 4/4 meter. Tempo increases gradually.

FORMATION: Mixed lines of 10 to 12 dancers, leader at R end. Arms extended sdwd at shoulder level, hands on nearest shoulder of adjacent dancer (T position). Free hand of end dancers may be extended sdwd at shouder level or be placed on hip, fingers fwd.

STYLING: Posture is erect. Ftwork is precise and controlled. The steps in Fig I diminish in size as the tempo increases. In Fig II the movement is swift and the steps are done lightly.

MUSIC 4/4

PATTERN

Measures

8 meas INTRODUCTION. No action.

I. SWAY, FWD, GRAPEVINE

- 1 With plié (bend of knee), step onto R ft and sway body wt completely over R, leave L in place (ct 1); raise on ball of R ft, straightening L knee (ct 2); lower R heel and bend knee slightly (ct 3); raise on ball of R ft (ct 4). Repeat action of cts 1, 2, 3, 4, reversing ftwork and direction (cts 5, 6, 7, 8).
- 2 Repeat action of meas 1 (Fig 1). During meas 1-2 face ctr; do not look from side to side.
- 3 Step fwd on a slight R diag twd ctr on R heel (ct 1); closing L to R (no wt) and bending both knees slightly, take wt on full R ft (ct 2). Repeat action of cts 1, 2 but reverse ftwork (step diag fwd L) (cts 3, 4).
- 4 Small step R sdwd R (ct 1); raise L leg fwd, knee bent, ankle relaxed (ct 2); step L to L (ct 3); stamp R beside L, no wt (ct 4).
NOTE: Dancers often join vocalist during meas 4 singing (phonetically) "HOPE shah SHAH shah SHAH".
- 5 Grapevine: Step R across in front of L (ct 1); step L to L (ct 2); step R across in back of L (ct 3); step L to L (ct 4).
- 6-7 Repeat action of meas 5 (Fig 1), two more times.
- 8 Step R across in front of L (ct 1); step L to L (ct 2); close R to L (ct 3); hold (ct 4).
- 9-56 Repeat action of meas 1-8 (Fig 1), six more times. As the tempo increases, the action of the first 2 meas of the 8 meas phrase becomes: R, bounce, L, bounce.

II. TRAVEL (No vocal at beginning of phrase).

- 1-2 Step R to R (ct 1); step L across in back of R (ct 2); repeat action of cts 1, 2 three more times, except on ct 4 of meas 2 do not cross in back but stamp L beside R (no wt). The 7 steps are small and evenly stressed.
- 3-4 Repeat action of meas 1-2 (Fig II), reversing ftwork and direction. Continue to cross in back.
- 5-8 Repeat action of meas 1-4 (Fig II).
- 9 Small step R to R (ct 1); stamp L beside R, no wt (ct 2); small step L to L (ct 3); stamp R beside L, no wt (ct 4).
- 10 Small step R to R (ct 1); step L behind R (ct 2); step R to R (ct 3); stamp L beside R, no wt (ct 4).
- 11-12 Repeat action of meas 9-10 (Fig II), reversing ftwork and direction.
- 13-16 Repeat action of meas 9-12 (Fig II).
- 17-32 Repeat action of Fig II, meas 1-16.
- 33-40 Repeat action of Fig II, meas 1-8.

"Ciuleandra"

(Dance Description on page 20.)

Foaie verde și minori
Ține-ți ciuleandra pe loc.

CHORUS:

Și 'ncodată măi băieți
Hooooop ș'așa ș'așa.

Țineți-o flăcăi așa
Pînă n-ajunge puica.

Întăriți-o liță lus
C-ajunge acuș acuș.

Mai întăriți-o de un pas
C-ajuns si n-a rămas.

Două fire două pae
Luați ciuleandra la bătaie.

Tot așa că nu mă las
Că sînt cu puica de-un pas.

Green leaf of basil (?)
Dance Ciuleandra on the spot.

Ch: And once again you guys,
Hop like this and that.

Hey you guys, dance it like that
Until my girl catches up.

CHORUS

Play it again a bit faster now,
Because she'll quickly get in time.

CHORUS

Now you play it even faster,
Because she's already outdone me.

CHORUS

Two stalks, two husks,
Beat Ciuleandra as fast as you can.

CHORUS

Play it like that, I won't give up;
I'm at the same place as my girl.

CHORUS

Translation courtesy of Sunni Blolani