Coconita

From the region of Târnave in Transylvania, Romania Presented by Sonia Dion & Cristian Florescu

Târnave is north of the county of Sibiu, on the Transylvanian Plain, between the two rivers in the region (Târnava Mica and Târnava Mare).

Coconița falls in the category of women's sung dances, very widespread in central Transylvania. It is a closed circle dance that generally moves in a clockwise direction. The CW direction indicates the archaic, ritualistic character of the dance. The verses sung are usually about marriage.

The word *coconita* derives from *cucoană* (lady), referring to an elegant, noble, distinguished woman who may or may not be married.

Music: Camp Hess Kramer 2007 CD
Formation: Women in closed circle
Styling: Very proud, with elegant steps

Position: R hand on waist with fingers pointing forward and L hand (arm extended in front) on

R shoulder of the W in front, facing RLOD

Prononciation: koh-koh-NEE-tsah

Meter: 2/4		Pattern of Coconița		
Meas.	Count			
1-9		Introduction (no action)		
		First dance (Dance with the slow song) (one step per measure)		
	Pattern	ı:		
1-4	Do 4 w	Do 4 walking steps, starting with R, moving straight ahead, without waving		
5-8	Do 4 s	Do 4 small steps, starting with R, waving slightly in direction of Ft		
9	1 2	Touch with R ball in place Pause		
Repeat t	his pattern t	ten more times (11 total)		

Meter: 2/4		Pattern of <i>Coconița</i> (continued)		
Meas.	Count	Second dance (hands in V pos. moving RLOD and body facing slightly to the left)		
	Pattern:			
1	1	Step on R slightly diag. to the right (twd center) and starting swing arms twd center		
	2	Touch with L ball close to R and swing arms twd center		
2	1&2	Do one two-step starting with L; first step slightly diag. to the left, second one Close to L and the third one on place Swing arms outside (slightly)		
3-8	Repeat r	Repeat measures 1-2, three more times (4 total)		

Style: The torso sways in an opposite direction to the movement of the feet (e.g., body sways backwards when dancer steps towards centre of circle).

9	i 2	Step on R fwd bending R knee slightly Step on L fwd	
10	1 2	Step on R fwd bending R knee slightly Step on L fwd	
11-14	Repeat measures 9-10 two more times (3 total)		
15	1 2	Step on R fwd bending knee slightly Step on L fwd	
16	1 2	Step on R fwd bending knee slightly Lift L ft and turn with R to the right (end facing LOD)	

Note: 9-16 = seven *closed rida steps* with transition. During the rida, the inner foot has toe turned slightly toward center. Rida travels smoothly.

17-32 Repeat measures 1-16 with opposite ftwk and direction

Do this pattern 2 ½ times.

Final pattern:

Intro. + First dance + Second dance.

Presented by Sonia Dion & Cristian Florescu, © 2007

Presented by Denise Heenan Camp Hess Kramer Institute October 19 – 21, 2007

Songs for Coconita

Transylvania, Romania

Slow song:

1.

La portița uliță-ă, mireasă mirea Şede mama miresă-ă, mireasă mirea

At the gate to the lane, the bride, the bride,

The bride's mama stands ...

2.

Se roagă la sfântu soare, mireasă mirea Să facă ziuca mare, mireasă mirea

She prays to the hallowed Sun,

Let the day be longer ...

3.

Care-o fată ducătoare, mireasă mirea Care-o fată ducătoare, mireasă mirea

For she has a daughter leaving to be wed, For she has a daughter leaving to be wed...

Repeat the three verses

Fast song:

Fetelor dragile mele, fetelor dragile mele Face-ți bine mă ierai, faceți bine mă ierai 2x

My dearest girl friends, Please forgive me...

Că din iasa-r într-o seară, că din iasa-r întro seară For evening after evening, Nu vă mai fac îmbulzeală, nu vă mai fac îmbulzeală I will no longer delight in your presence... 2x

Fi voioasă soro mare, căs la scale lângă vale Şi scaun în şezătoare, și drăguțu-i ca o floare Be glad, big sister, That I have left for the valley. My chair at our gatherings will be free And my beloved is so handsome!