

# Horă din pusta Banatului

(Banat, Romania)

There are two large families of dances in Romania, called Sârba and Hora. The Hora is certainly the most popular and most widespread form of dance, being found in every region. Its popularity is partly because the number of dancers, men or women, is unlimited and anyone can join the circle, no matter what their dance level is. The term Hora is also synonymous with "ball" (for example, the Sunday festival in a particular village), at which the Hora is not necessarily danced.

Usually the Hora is danced in a large closed circle with hands held in the W position. However, in some areas (northern Oltenia and Banat), the dance is done in an open circle with a leader who may choose to take the line into a spiral.

The particular feature of Horă din pusta Banatului is the musical interpretation. Although the sequence of steps stays the same, the melodic line changes as the pace becomes faster and faster.

PRONUNCIATION: HOH-ruh deen poos-TAH bah-nah-TOO-loo-ee

MUSIC: Sonia Dion & Cristian Florescu Romanian Realm Vol. 2, Band 6

FORMATION: open mixed circle; hands joined, right arm down in front, left arm bent (from elbow) in back. Facing directly and moving in LOD.

STEPS: Basic:

Meas.	Count	
1	1	Step fwd on R
	&	Close L ft near R (with wt)
	2	Step fwd on R
		(1&2 = one two-step)
2		Repeat meas. 1 with opp ftwk
3	1	Step fwd on R
	2	Step fwd on L

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METER: 2/4

PATTERN

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Meas Count

1-16 Introduction (no action)

## **Melody A (8 x 16 meas.)**

Style: The steps are very small and gliding (no bouncing), body straight and with a very proud attitude.

## **Melody B (6 x 16 meas.)**

Hands joined in W pos. moving in LOD but facing center (slightly diag. to the right) (same hand position for melodies B, C and D)

Style: The steps are more energetic, bouncing, and the two-steps change to running two-steps.

Note: This melody begins with the 2 walking steps of the basic step, but they will change to light running steps afterwards.

**Melody C (2 x 16 meas.)**

Style: The running two-steps change to pas-de-basque, almost the same style as melody B but faster.

Note: This melody also begins with 2 running steps.

**Melody D (Sârba) (4 x 16 meas.)**

Style: The steps are very, very energetic, sharp and quick. The running two-steps are smaller and very fast.

Note: This melody begins with the L running two-steps.

Variation for melody D: Use the basic step or the basic step described below.

Basic step description

Meas. Count

- |   |   |                                                                                           |
|---|---|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | 1 | Step on L in place and raise R ft in front of L shin                                      |
|   | 2 | Wt still on L, knee bent and pumps slightly while R leg describes very small fwd bicycle. |
| 2 |   | Do 2 running steps (small) starting with R ft (R, L).                                     |
| 3 |   | Repeat meas. 1 with opp ftwk                                                              |

Final pattern:

Basic steps throughout (with styles and variation as noted).