

Purtată de pe Mureș

(Transylvania, Romania)

Purtată and De-a Lungu belong to the same family of dances. They are the oldest couple dances from Transylvania. The first traces of them go back to the 17th century. A number of specialists say that in all likelihood they descend from La Polonaise. It is thought that couple dances began to spread across Central and Northern Europe in the 16th century. In Romania, they didn't reach Valachia, in the southern part of the country, since the Carpathian Mountains—a natural barrier—and the Ottoman occupation would have limited their expansion.

Initially, Purtata was a procession associated with wedding ceremonies. Its purpose was to solemnly introduce all the participants and wedding guests, to make official who would dance with whom (especially the singles!), and to have everyone proudly show off all their finery.

As time went on, Transylvania's repertoire was enriched with many couple dances. Each one had an important place and was danced in a precise order during the evening, in keeping with local traditions. Nonetheless, either Purtata or De-a Lungu continues to be the opening dance at all festivities in the region.

Pronunciation: poor-TAH-tuh deh peh MOO-rehsh

Music: Sonia Dion & Cristian Florescu Romanian Realm Vol. 3, Band 7 or
Sonia Dion & Cristian Florescu, 60th Stockton Folk Dance Camp, Band 4 4/4 meter

Formation: Line of couples facing LOD, partners facing each other slightly, Wat the R of M, inside hands joined and up in W pos, outside hand for M: usually W-pos and snapping fingers, outside hand for W down alongside body.

Styling: Proud, elegant and “late” on the music...

Steps: Basic step: Part one: Step on L (ct 1); touch ball of R near L (ct 2); step on R (ct 3); touch ball of L near R (ct 4).

Part two: Step on L (ct 1); step on R (ct 2); small step on L (ct 3); step on ball of R in place (ct &); step on L in place (ct 4).

(Whole basic step repeats with opp ftwk.)

Meas

Pattern

16 meas INTRODUCTION (no action) The introduction melody is a fast 4/4.

FIGURE 1 (M & W do the same with opp ftwk)

1 One Basic step (part one) starting with outside ft (L for M, R for W), fwd (cts 1,2); bkwd (cts 3,4). The inside lower arms move slightly fwd and down (arms softly extend and parallel with the floor) (cts 1,2); up and bkwd (cts 3,&,4).

2 One Basic step (part two) starting with outside ft (L for M, R for W), fwd (cts 1,2); turn slightly twd ptr (cts 3,4). The inside lower arms move slightly fwd and down (ct 1); up and bkwd (ct 2); fwd and down (cts 3,&,4).

Purtată de pe Mure,s—continued

- 3 One Basic step (part one) starting with R for M, L for W, bkwd (cts 1,2); fwd (cts 3,4). Swing down in V-pos twd the back with the inside arms on cts 1-2, swing up to the original position (W-pos) (cts 3,4).
- 4 One Basic step (part two) starting with R for M, L for W, bkwd (cts 1,2); and slightly facing away from ptr (cts 3,&,4). W does one full turn (CCW) almost in place. M moves R arm (CCW) over the head of his ptr to help her to turn.

FIGURE 2 (facing LOD)

- 1 Repeat Fig 1, meas 1 (starting L for M, R for W), turning (slightly) on ct 1 to face LOD.
- 2 One Basic step (part two) starting with outside ft (L for M, R for W), fwd (cts 1,2); to the side (away from partner) (cts 3.&,4). The inside lower arms move slightly fwd and down (ct 1.2); extend inside arms slightly (cts 3,&,4).
- 3 One Basic step (part two) starting with R for M, L for W, bkwd (cts 1,2); and slightly facing away from ptr (cts 3,&,4).The inside arms come back in the original position (W-pos) on cts 1-2: extend on cts 3-4.
- 4 One Basic step (part two) starting with R for M, L for W, large steps (cts 1,2); turn 1/2 to R (CW for M around W, CCW for W moving to right of M) changing place with ptr (cts 3,&,4). Joined hands do the same motion (CCW) as Fig 1, meas 4.
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4, facing R LOD.
- Sequence: Repeat 4 times; F1 + F2

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