

ANA LUGOJANA (Hategana)
(Romania-Banat)

Ana Lugojana (AH-nah loo-goh-ZHAH-nah, "Anna from Lugoj") is a popular song whose tune is one of many used to accompany the Hategana (hah-tzeh-GAH-nah), a well known Romanian couple dance in the regions of Banat and Transylvania. In Romania the Hategana is found in a number of regional variants, the most complex having four figures: a "promenade", a woman's twirl, a couple-turning figure and a change-partner figure.

The simpler version given here is one I learned and danced during the late 1930's and 1940's in my home town of St. Paul, Minnesota, among Romanian immigrants from Banat. At weddings, church holidays, fund-raisers and other dance events at the small hall behind St. Mary's Romanian Orthodox Church, Ana Lugojana was played and danced once or twice in a given afternoon or evening, along with a half-dozen other Romanian circle, contra and couple dances. A local combo of first-generation part-time musicians furnished the music on violin, clarinet, drums and, occasionally, saxophone.

Music: Ethnic Arts EA 4501, Ana Lugojana 2/4 meter

Formation: Cpls anywhere on the dance floor. See below for positions and handholds.

Basic Step: Step-close-apart-chug

One basic step pattern is used throughout the dance. Ftwk is identical for M and W. The entire pattern is done flat-footed, with wt back on the heels rather than on the forward portion of the ft. Otherwise, it has some of the feel of the UP-down rida some folk dancers are familiar with from Hungarian dances.

Meas Basic Step L

- 1 ("step-close"): With L knee straight, step L ft sdwd L (ct 1); bending both knees slightly, close R ft beside L, taking wt on R ft (ct 2).
- 2 ("apart-chug"): Straightening knees, again step L ft sdwd L, momentarily sharing wt on both ft in this "apart" pos (ct 1); bending both knees, slide L ft "home" beside R ft with a chug, shifting full wt onto L ft with accent (sometimes audible) and raising R ft low off floor beside L ft (ct 2).

Basic Step R

- 3-4 Reverse ftwk and direction of meas 1-2.

Meas

Pattern

I. SIDE PROMENADE L AND R

Position: Ptrs side by side, W on M R, inside hands joined with elbows bent. W outside hand either on hip (fingers fwd) or down at side naturally. M outside hand on hip or raised out to side at head level (M occasionally snaps fingers or gestures with out-stretched palm to give emphasis to a movement).

ANA LUGOJANA (Cont'd)

- 1-2 In this "promenade" pos, do Basic Step L.
3-4 Basic Step R.

Cpl continues promenading alternately L and R for as long as M wishes. Though described above as strictly sdwd, the "promenade" can actually be done moving very slightly fwd as well; however, the cpl does not stray very far from their original place on the floor.

II. WOMAN'S TWIRL

This is actually a variation of the "promenade" described above. Both M and W do the same steps as in Fig I but, if and when the M wishes, he may raise their joined hands and twirl the W (CCW if they are promenading L; CW if they are promenading R).

The W's twirl is one full turn using the ftwk of one Basic Step (beg L ft for CCW twirl, R ft for CW twirl). She does the turn in 2 steps equivalent to the "step-close" of a Basic Step, and does the "apart-chug" after she has completed the turn and is again side-by-side with ptr.

III. COUPLE TURNS

Position: Ptrs face, W hands on M shldrs, M hands may be at W shldr blades or he may place his R hand at her waist and his L hand at her R elbow or upper arm.

The cpl turns are done alternately CW and CCW, using various combinations of the movements of the Basic Step. For convenience in learning, three arbitrary cpl turns are described here: "singles", "doubles" and "double doubles".

"Singles"

- 1-4 In one of the turn pos described above, ptrs face just slightly to L of direct face-to-face pos, and turn as a cpl CW using the movements of one Basic Step L; then reverse (if M is using waist-elbow hold with W, he at this point switches L hand to her waist and R hand to her L elbow or upper arm), turning CCW using the movements of one Basic Step R.

"Doubles"

- 1-8 Cpl turns CW using the equivalent of three "step-closes" and one "apart-chug" of a Basic Step L; then reverse and do the equivalent of three "step-closes" and one "apart-chug" of a Basic Step R.

"Double doubles"

- 1-16 Cpl turns CW with the equivalent of seven "step-closes" and one "apart-chug" of a Basic Step L; then reverse and do the equivalent of seven "step-closes" and one "apart-chug" of a Basic Step R.