

# Ardeleana din câmpie

(Banat, Romania)

The Romanian part of Banat is mountainous in the south and southeast, while plains (*câmpie*) blanket the north, west and southwest. The climate is generally warm, favouring farming and grape production for wine. The region is full of rivers, streams and mineral springs, well known for their therapeutic qualities.

The *Ardeleana* family of dances are couple dances done in column formation. Partners face each other in two parallel lines, as in American contras and English country dances. *Ardelenele* are prevalent in the western part of Romania and found mostly in the regions of Bihor, Arad, and Banat. There are many variations in the region of Banat: *Poarga*, *Ardeleana Jute*, *Mânânelul* and *De Doi*. Couple dances there are elegant and usually involve sequences where the play of arms, circle movements, patterns and turns (by the woman) are harmonious. The style is characterized by small steps with knees flexed and on the balls of the feet, producing an effect of light, flowing movement.

Pronunciation: ahr-deh-LYAH-nah deen KOOM-pee-eh

Music: *Sonia Dion & Cristian Florescu, 60th Stockton Folk Dance Camp, Band 8* 2/4 meter

Formation: Longways set, partners facing each other holding hands—M's R hand holding W's L hand, arms down, M's L hand holding W's R hand, arms up.

Styling: Elegant, proud and soft. Couple dances from Banat are light-footed and graceful. Movements should be fluid and springy. Both partners are active, the man courteously helping the woman execute her turns. The arms are outstretched without being stiff or heavy. The couple circles the floor in perfect harmony.

## Meas

## Pattern

16 meas. INTRODUCTION: Dancers are encouraged to improvise.

### FIGURE 1 (M's footwork)

- 1 Step on R crossing in front of L (bending knee slightly) turning slightly diag to L, so that R shldr come near each other (ct 1); step on L back to place (ct 2).
- 2 Step on R to R, come back facing each other (ct 1); step on L next to R (ct 2); step on R in place (ct &).
- 3 Very small step bkwd (almost in place) on L (ct 1); step on R in place (ct 2); step on L in place (ct &).
- 4 Very small step on R diag to R (ct 1); step on L next to R (ct 2); step on R in place (ct &).
- 5-8 Repeat measures 1-4 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 9-15 Repeat measures 1-7.
- 16 Very small click (without noise) with L ft (with wt) (ct 1); pause (ct 2).

### (W's footwork)

- 1-15 Same as measures 1-15 of M's ftwk (starting with R)
- 16 Very small click (smaller than M) (without noise) with L ft (no wt).

FIGURE 2 (M's footwork)

- 1 Step fwd on R slightly diag to L (ct 1); step on L close to R (ct 2); step fwd on R next to L (ct &).
- 2 Step fwd on L (ct 1); step on R next to L (ct &); step fwd on L (ct 2).  
Note: meas 1-2 = two small running two-steps.
- 3 Do one two-step (almost in place) starting with R.
- 4 Step fwd on L (ct 1); step back on R to place (ct 2).
- 5-7 Repeat meas 1-3 with opp ftwk and direction, M makes a small semi-circle (CW) as W moves around him.
- 8 Step on R to R (ct 1); step on L in place (ct 2). During meas 8, body does a little sway movement.  
During meas 5-8, M transfers W's R hand from his L hand to his R hand at shldr level. M's L hand on his waist. W's L hand free alongside body. At the end of meas 8, R hand is on M's R shldr.
- 9-15 Repeat meas 1-7 but ftwk almost in place.  
During meas 9-15, M leads his ptr with his R hand to move around and turn.
- 16 Very small click (without noise) with R ft (ct 1); pause (ct 2).

## (W's footwork)

- 1-16 Do opp ftwk as M's ftwk (starting with L).  
During meas 1-4, W also moves in opp direction (starts moving bkwd on L slightly diag to R).  
During meas 5-8, W does 3/4 turn around her ptr (RLOD), ending behind M at his L side.  
During meas 9-12, W comes back same way around her ptr (LOD), ending in front of M.  
During meas 13-16, W turns once (CW) in place.

FIGURE 3 (M's footwork)

(Cpl facing each other, arms in W-pos; M's L hand holding W's R hand and M's R hand holding W's L hand).

- 1 Step on L to L (ct 1); step on R next to L (ct 2); step on L in place (ct &).
- 2 Step on R to R (ct 1); step on L next to R (ct 2); step on R in place (ct &).  
During meas 1-2, hands move in a circular pattern (toward the inside) as though washing a window in front at chest height. Meas 1: R hand does almost 1 turn (up first, then twd top of the set,...). Meas 2: L hand does almost 1 turn (up first, then twd bottom of the set,...).
- 3 Turn 1/4 to Land step fwd on L (ct 1), ending side by side (W at R of M) and facing same direction (top of the set); inside hands joined & held at shoulder height, outside hands joined & held at waist height, forearms parallel with the floor and twd partner; step on R twd top of set (ct 2)
- 4-7 Continue moving twd top of set with eight more small walking steps (10 total).
- 8 Turn 1/4 to the right with one small two-step starting with L, ending face to face (cts 1 ,&,2).
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8 with opp ftwk and direction and hand positions.

## (W's footwork)

- 1-16 Do opp ftwk as M's ftwk (starting with R).

## Ardeleana din câmpie—continued

FIGURE 4 (M's footwork)

- 1-2 Repeat Fig III, meas 1-2 (starting with L to L).  
 3 Turn 1/4 to L and step on L fwd, ending same pos as Fig III, meas 3 (ct 1); step fwd on R (ct 2).  
 4 Turn 1/4 to R with one small two-step starting with L ending face to face (cts 1 ,&,2).  
 5-6 Repeat Fig III, meas 9-10 (starting with R to R).  
 7 Turn 1/4 to R and step fwd on R, ending same holding pos as Fig III, meas 2 of but cpl facing bottom of the set (ct 1); step fwd on L (ct 2).  
 8 Turn 1/4 to L with one small two-step starting with R, ending face to face (cts 1 ,&,2).  
 9-10 Repeat Fig III, meas 1-2 (starting with L to L).  
 11 Step on L to L, M's R hand holding W's L hand (ct 1); step on R next to L (ct 2).  
 12 Dance one two-step in place starting with L, helping W while she turns (cts 1 ,&,2).  
 13-16 Repeat meas 9-12 with opp ftwk and direction, but replace the last two-step of meas 16 with a very small click (without noise) with R ft.

## (W's footwork)

- 1-16 Do opposite ftwk as M's ftwk (starting with R).  
 During measure 12, W executes 1 turn (CW) and moving slightly to R.  
 During measure 16, W executes 1 turn (CCW) and replaces last step of meas 16 with a small click (without noise) with L.

Sequence: F1 (meas 9-16) + F2 + F1+ F2 + F1 + F2 + F3 + F4  
 F1 + F2 + F1 + F2 + F1 + F2 + F3 + F4 + F3 + F4

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