

Brâul din Mărginime

From the region of Sibiu, Transylvania, Romania
Presented by Sonia Dion and Cristian Florescu

Located in the centre of Romania, near the Făgăraş Mountains, the region of Sibiu is the crossroads of the historical territories of Romania—and this has been so since ancient times. The city of Sibiu was, and always will be, at the heart of the country's centre. It is the largest and most important of the seven fortified cities built in the 12th century by Germans (Saxons) who settled in the strategic trading zone and named the city Hermannstadt. The city is beautifully preserved, the architecture bearing witness to its rich culture and heritage. It continues to be a magnificent place to explore, giving visitors the feeling of being in a medieval German burg.

The inhabitants (Mărgineni) of the area west of Sibiu built their houses in the mountains, along the old border of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and this is one of the reasons their habitat is called Mărginimea (which means border). The Mărgineni's main occupation has always been livestock-raising. Within their traditions are dances, music and rituals linked to their livelihood. The best known dances are *Jiana*, *Hora*, *Sârba* and *Brâul*. In this region, the *brâul* (meaning “belt” or “chain”) is traditionally danced by men only.

Formation: Men's closed circle

Position: facing center, R arm bent, R hand with fingers fwd on the L shoulder of the person on the right and L arm free.

Pronunciation: BREWL deen muhr-dzhee-NEE-meh

Music: *Sonia Dion & Cristian Florescu Romanian Realm Vol. 8, Band 7*

Meter: 2/4

Description of *Brâul din Mărginime*

Meas.	Count	Introduction
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1-4		No action, may shout
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Shout: *Foaie verde lemn domnesc* (Green foliage from stately trees)
Ăsta-i brâul bătrânesc! (That's for sure an age-old dance!)

Figure 1

1	1& 2&	Step on R to right Close L near R
2		Repeat measure 1
3	1	Lift on L heel

& Stamp on R (no wt) slightly in front
 2 Lift on L heel
 & Stamp on R (no wt)

Meter: 2/4 Description of *Brâul din Mărginime* (continued)

Meas. Count **Figure 1** (continued)

4 1 Lift on L heel
 & Stamp on R (no wt)
 2& Drop on L heel

5 1& Stamp with noise on R (no wt) diag. to the left
 2& Stamp with noise on R (no wt) diag. to the right

6-10 Repeat measures **1-5** (starting on R)

Figure 2
 (Moving and facing LOD)

1 1& Step fwd on R
 2& Step fwd on L

2 Repeat measure **1** (starting R ft)

3 1 Lift on L heel
 &2 Step fwd on R

4 &1 Step fwd on L
 & Step fwd on R
 2& Step fwd on L

5-8 Repeat measures **1-4** (starting R ft)

9 1& Facing center, stamp with noise on R (no wt) diag. to the left
 2& Stamp with noise on R (no wt) diag. to the right

10-18 Repeat measures **1-9** (starting R ft)

Final pattern:

Introduction + (F1 + F2) x 4.

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