

Coconița

(Târnave, Transylvania, Romania)

Târnave is north of the county of Sibiu, on the Transylvanian Plain, between the two rivers in the region (Târnava Mica and Târnava Mare).

Coconita falls in the category of women's sung dances, very widespread in central Transylvania. It is a closed circle dance that generally moves in a clockwise direction. The CW direction indicates the archaic, ritualistic character of the dance. The verses sung are usually about marriage.

The word *coconia* derives from *cucoan* (lady), referring to an elegant, noble, distinguished woman who may or may not be married.

Pronunciation: koh-koh-NEE-tsah

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

Formation: Women in closed circle, R hand on waist with fingers pointing forward and L hand (arm extended in front) on R shoulder of the W in front, facing RLOD.

Styling: Very proud, with elegant steps.

Meas

Pattern

1-9 INTRODUCTION (no action)

FIRST DANCE

(Dance with the slow song, one step per meas.)

1-4 Take 4 walking steps, starting with R, moving straight ahead, without weaving.

5-8 Take 4 small steps, starting with R, weaving slightly in direction of ft.

9 Touch with ball of R in place (ct 1); pause (ct 2).

Repeat this pattern ten more times (11 total)

SECOND DANCE

(Hands in V-pos. moving RLOD and body facing slightly to the L.)

1 Step on R slightly diag to R (twd ctr) and starting to swing arms twd ctr (ct 1); touch with ball of L next to R and swing arms twd ctr (ct 2).

2 Dance one two-step starting with L: step on L slightly diag to L (ct 1); step on R next to L (ct &); step on L in place, swinging arms slightly outside (ct 2).

3-8 Repeat meas 1-2, three more times (4 total).

Styling: The torso sways in an opp direction to the movement of the ft (e.g., body sways bkwd when dancer steps twd ctr of circle).

9 Step fwd on R bending R knee slightly (ct 1); step fwd on L (ct 2).

10-15 Repeat meas 9 six more times (7 total).

16 Step fwd on R bending knee slightly (ct 1); lift L ft and turn on R to R (end facing LOD) (ct 2).

During the rida, the inner foot has toe turned slightly toward center. Rida travels smoothly.

Note: meas 9-16 = seven closed rida steps with transition.

17-32 Repeat meas 1-16 with opp ftwk and direction.

Do this pattern 2 1/2 times.

Sequence: Intro. + First dance + Second dance

Presented by Sonia Dion & Cristian Florescu, © 2007

Coconița —continued

Songs for Coconița

Slow song:

La portița uliță-ă mireasă mirea	At the gate to the lane, the bride, the bride,
Șede mama miresă-ă, mireasă mirea	The bride's mama stands ...
Se roagă la sfântu soare, mireasă mirea	She prays to the hallowed Sun,
Să facă ziua mare, mireasă mirea	Let the day be longer ...
Care-o fată ducătoare, mireasă mirea	For she has a daughter leaving to be wed,
Care-o fată ducătoare, mireasă mirea	For she has a daughter leaving to be wed...

Repeat the three verses

Fast song:

/Fetelor dragile mele, fetelor dragile mele	My dearest girl friends,
Face-ți bine mă ierați, faceți bine mă ierați/	Please forgive me...
/Că din iasa-r într-o seară, că din iasa-r într-o seară	For evening after evening,
Nu vă mai fac îmbulzeală, nu vă mai fac îmbulzeală/	I will no longer delight in your presence...
Fi voioasă soro mare,	Be glad, big sister,
că la scale lângă vale	That I have left for the valley.
Și scaun în eztoare,	My chair at our gatherings will be free
și drăguțu-i ca o floare	And my beloved is so handsome!