

Geamparalele din Babadag

(Romania, Dobrogean region)

The region of Dobrogea is located between the Danube River and the Black Sea. The dance style and music reflect an important influence of the southeastern Balkans. We find in the repertoire a few *Brâurile rapide* for men, *Horele pe bătaie* and many other dances with characteristic rhythms in 5/16, 7/16, 9/16, 11/16, for example, *Drăgăicu!a*, *Cadineasca*, *Păhărelul*, *Păpușica* and of course *Geamparaua*. The etymology of the word *Geamparale* is unclear, it probably comes from the Turkish *calpara*, which literally means four disks. It's hard to say what that could have been at the time of the Ottoman oppression, but it gives an idea of intricacy. The family of *Geamparalele* dances is vast and includes several variants. The town of Babadag is located near the city of Tulcea.

Pronunciation: DZHAHM-pah-rah-leh-leh deen BAH-bah-dahg

Music: 2/4 meter

Formation: Mixed open circle, hands joined in V pos.

Styling: Energetic.

Meas

Pattern

2 meas INTRODUCTION No action.

FIGURE I

- 1 Moving and facing R, step fwd on R (ct 1); step on L next to R (ct &); step fwd on R raising lower L leg behind 90° (ct 2).
- 2 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk.
- 3 Repeat meas 1.
- 4 Assembler: bring both ft together with demi-plié (ct 1); hop on R, raising L lower leg behind 90° (ct 2).
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 with opp ftwk.
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.

FIGURE II Ghimpele

Facing ctr, hands on waist (A-pos).

- 1 Touch ball of R ft in front of L (ct 1); raise R leg with knee bent 90° in front (ct 2).
- 2 Step on R (ct 1); step on L (ct &); step on R (ct 2).
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk.
- 5-6 Repeat meas 1-2.
- 7 Assembler: bring both ft together with grand plié (squat) (ct 1); stand up on both ft (ct 2).
- 8 Jump on both ft (ct 1); raise R leg with knee bent 45° in front (R ft near L leg) (ct 2).
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.

FIGURE III

Facing ctr, hands free. During meas 1-3, make full turn L (CCW).

- 1 Step on R, clapping hands together in front (chin level) (ct 1); step on L, clapping hands (ct &); step on R, clapping hands (ct 2); pause (ct &).

Geamparalele din Babadag—continued

- 2 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk.
- 3 Repeat meas 1.
- 4 Clap hands together, bending fwd 45° from waist (ct 1); clap hands together in same body pos (ct 2).
- 5-7 Repeat meas 1-3 turning to R (CW).
- 8 Slap 3 times with one hand on each thigh, R L R (R hand on R thigh alternately), bending fwd 45° from waist (cts 1,&,2); clap hands together in same body pos (ct &).
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.

FIGURE IV

Hands joined in W-pos, body facing diag 45° to L, shaking shldrs.

- 1 Touch ball of R ft in front (ct 1); touch ball of R ft behind (ct 2).
- 2 Repeat meas 1.
- 3 Step fwd on R (ct 1); step on L (ct &); step fwd on R (ct 2).
- 4 Assembler ft together, facing ctr (ct 1); hop on R, raising L leg with knee bent 45° in back (ct 2).
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.

TRANSITION

Hands on waist (A-pos). During meas 1-4, execute a half-circle to the L (LOD) to enlarge the formation.

- 1 Step fwd on R (ct 1); step on L next to R (ct &); step fwd on R (ct 2).
 - 2 Step fwd on L (ct 1); step on R (ct &); step fwd on L (ct 2).
 - 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2.
- On final transition, stamp on R, raising arms over head (Y-pos), palms facing out.

Sequence: Fig I, Fig II, Fig III, Fig IV, Transition (8 ct),
Fig I, Fig II, Fig III, Fig IV, Transition (9 ct)

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