

Gyimesi Csángó Lassú és Friss Csárdás

(Gyimes, Transylvania, Rumania)

The Csárdás from Gyimes is a newer dance within the Hungarian layer of dances from the Gyimes dance repertoire. Structurally however, it is very similar to the older Lassú Magyaros (Slow Hungarian). It differs in rhythm and tempo. The Gyimesi csángók (pl.) are a Hungarian-speaking ethnic group living in the Eastern Carpathian mountains in Rumania. Gyorgy Martin has categorized their rich dance repertoire into three main sub-divisions: 1. The Hungarian Layer (old and new), 2. The Balkan Layer (line dances), 3. The Newer dances of Western origin (Polka, Seven Step, etc.)

SOURCE: Ferenc Sára .

MUSIC: Available on tape or Electrocord EPE 02686, Hungaroton SLPX 18130, Hungaria HRLP 001

FORMATION: Cpls scattered freely on dance floor; face to face but shifted slightly so that woman is to R of man. Woman grips both of man's upper arms; man's R hand is on woman's L shoulder-blade, his L hand rests on or holds her R upper arm.

METER: 2/4

PATTERN

Meas

Single Csárdás or Rest Step

- 1 M: Step R fwd diag. R (ct 1); close L fwd toward R (ct 2).
W: Step L back diag. L (ct 1); close R to L (ct 2).
- 2 Reverse action of meas 1.
- 3-7 Repeat action of meas. 1-2
- 8 M: Release R hand and take a slightly larger step Lft back (ct 1); Click R against L (ct. 2)
W: Repeat action of meas 2 but take wt on to L (ct 2) .

Couple Turning Step

- 1 Ftwk is same for Man and Woman. Stepping into a side by side position (hand hold remains the same only shifted slightly to R to adjust to new position) step R fwd (ct 1) continue to lift on R. step L fwd lowering slightly onto it (ct 2). The feeling of this step is an up-down pulse.
- 2-6 Repeat action of meas. 1 turning CW. Note: Man's inner foot remains in place while woman walks around man.
- Change of direction
- 7 Step R fwd dipping on it (ct 1); step L fwd raising to normal, straightened level (ct &); close R to L stopping all fwd motion (ct 2).
- 8 Turning to face partner and beginning change of direction, step onto ball of Lft foot directly behind and to the R of Rft (Rft remains in place). This step is very close and into a releve pos. (ct 1); Note: at this point there is the least amount of tension or resistance between cpl. Lower onto Rft slightly to R (knee bent) Lft remains in place (ct 2).
Note: The secret to this step is using in a functional sense i.e. to stop forward movement and to change direction. It is done naturally, calmly, and with complete control.
- 9-16. Reverse action and shift hand hold of. meas 1-8.
- 17-23 Repeat action of meas. 1-7.
- 24 Continuing fwd, step L fwd (ct 1); M: Step R back (ct 2); W: Close Rft to Lft (ct 2).

Transition to Single Csárdás

- 1-2 M: starting with L, dance a double Csárdás to L (L, together, L, close) .
W: starting with R ft, dance a double Csárdás to R (R, together, R, close)
- 3-8 Repeat action of meas. 3-8 of Single Csárdás or Rest step

Ropogatatas (Stamping of lit. "Crackling")

During this step woman either stands and supports man or does a single csardas in place.

Position: Woman to R of man in open position. Man rests R hand over woman's L shoulder or even on R shoulder. He may even hang on her if the evenings been a particularly rough one.

1 Single Stamp: Step Rft in place (ct 1); stamp Lft loudly beside Rft (ct &); Step Lft in place (ct 2); stamp Rft beside Lft (ct &).

2-4 Repeat action of meas 1 Single Stamp

Double Stamp: Step R in place (ct 1); Stamp L beside R (ct &); bend R knee slightly (ct 2); Stamp L beside R (ct&),

2 Reverse action of meas 1 Double Stamp or Three accented steps in place L, R, L, (cts 1,&,2).

3-4 Repeat action of meas. 1-2 Double stamp

Chug

1 Repeat action of meas. 1 Double Stamp

2 Feet together (ct 1); chug Rft diag. fwd R and Lft diag back L (ct &); bring feet together (ct 2); chug feet apart as in ct & (ct &).

3-4 Repeat action of meas. 1-2 of Chug.

Close

1-2 Run 4 accented steps R,L,R,L in place (cts 1,2,1,2).

3 Jump onto both feet (knees bent) with accent and brush R fwd (ct 1); Lift R fwd and up (ct 2).

4 Step R fwd and turn toward woman (ct 1); click Lft to Rft taking wt. on Lft and return to cpl turning pos. (ct 2). From this step continue directly into couple turn.

Suggested sequence:

Single Csárdás or Rest step (8 Meas.)

Couple turn (24 meas.)

Transition back to Rest step and Rest step (8 meas.)

Couple Turn (24 meas.)

Transition back to Rest but end in open side by side pos. (8 meas.)

Ropogatatas:

Single (4 meas.)

Double (4 meas.)

Single (2 meas.)

Double (2 meas.)

Single (2 meas.)

Double (2 meas.) .

Chug (4 meas.)

Close (4 meas.)