

Hora nevestelor

(County of Alba, Transylvania, Romania)

This dance comes from the village of Roia de Seca, in the county of Alba, in central Transylvania. Alba borders on the north with the county of Cluj and on the south with that of Sibiu. It covers 6231 km, that is, 2.6 percent of the total area of Romania. The capital city is Alba-Iulia (73,000 inhabitants) and was, for a period in the past, the national capital.

Hora nevestelor din Roia de Seca belongs to the category of women's dances generally referred to as Purtata fetelor. These dances are known by different names, however, depending on where they are danced. For example, in the villages of Cpâlna and Feisa, it is called Purtata; in the village of Crciunel, it is known as Btut and in Roia de Seca, Hora nevestelor, as mentioned. The term neveste means "married women." Thus in Roia de Seca, traditionally, only married women did the dance. Originally the song was sung a cappella. Nowadays one or two musicians from the local area accompany the dancers.

Pronunciation: HOH-rah neh-VEHS-teh-lohr

Music: Sonia Dion & Cristian Florescu, 60th Stockton Folk Dance Camp, Band 13

Rhythm: Although the dance is done in a 10/16 rhythm, the following description uses a 2/4 rhythm to simplify.

Formation: Women circle back-basket hold or hands down in V-pos, facing ctr. Can be done in one large or several small circles.

Styling: The steps are generally very small and done with the whole foot. The hand position (back-basket hold or V-pos.) is up to the women who are dancing but also depends on the size of the circle. The V-pos is more comfortable when participants are learning the sequences.

Meas

Pattern

INTRODUCTION

- 1-6 No action.
- 7 Step on R to R facing very slightly to R (ct 1); step on L next to R (ct 2); step on R to R (ct &).
- 8 Scuff with L (ct 1); step L in front (very slightly) of R (ct &); scuff with R (ct 2); step on R to R, turning to face ctr (ct &). (Rhythm of meas. 7-8: S-Q-Q-Q-Q-Q-Q). Note: the steps of meas 7-8 are called Chioap.

FIGURE 1

- 1-2 Step on L to L (ct 1); step on R next to L (ct 2); step on L to L (cts &-1); step on R next to L (ct &); step on L to L (ct 2). (Rhythm: S-Q-S-Q-S).
Note: The first three steps in measures 12 are more emphasized to clearly mark the rhythm.
- 3-4 Very small step on R to R (ct 1); step on L next to R (ct 2); step on R to R (cts &-1); step on L next to R (ct &); step on R to R (ct 2); stamp on L next to R (no wt) (ct &). (Rhythm: S-Q-S-Q-Q-Q)
- 5-24 Repeat meas 1-4, five more times (6 total).

Hora nevestelor—continued

FIGURE 2 (Chioap)

- 1 Step on L to L facing very slightly to L (ct 1); drag and keep R ft close to ground (ct &); step on R next to L (ct 2); step on L to L (ct &);
- 2 Scuff with R (ct 1); step on R in front (very slightly) of L (ct &); scuff with L (ct 2); step on L to and turning to face ctr (ct &). (Rhythm S-Q-Q-Q-Q-Q-Q). Note: The steps are called Chioap.
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk and direction. 5-16 Repeat meas 1-4, three more times (4 total).

FIGURE 3 (with the singing part of the melody)

- 1 Sharp step on L (making noise) to L (ct 1); sharp step on R (making noise) next to L (ct 2); hold (ct &).
- 2 Scuff with R (ct 1); step on R in front (very slightly) of L (ct &); scuff with L (ct 2); step on L to L and turning facing ctr (ct &). (Rhythm: Q-S-Q-Q-Q-Q-Q).
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 5-16 Repeat meas 1-4, three more times (4 total).

FIGURE 4

- 1-4 Facing diag to R. Repeat Fig 2, meas 1-4. (Rhythm S-Q-Q-Q-Q-Q-Q) (Chioap).
- 5 Moving to R, step on L crossing in front of R (ct 1); step on R to R (ct &); step on L crossing in front of R (ct 2); step on R to R (ct &).
- 6-14 Repeat meas 5, nine more times (10 total).
Note: Steps of meas 5-14 = 20 Rida steps.
- 15-16 All the steps are emphasized to clearly mark the rhythm. Pause (ct 1); step on L crossing in front of R (ct &); pause (ct 2); step on R to R (ct &); step on L next to R (ct 1); pause (ct &); very small step on R to R turning slightly twd ctr (ct 2); stamp on L (no wt) (ct &).
If you don't count the 20 Rida steps, listen for women singing "oy-yu-yu."

Sequence: F1 + F2 + F3 + F4 + F4
F1 (meas 1-16) + F4 + F4 + F4

Presented by Sonia Dion and Cristian Florescu, © 2007