

Hora pojorenilor

From Pojorâta, Bucovina, Romania
Presented by Sonia Dion & Cristian Florescu

Hora, plural *Hore* (same reading as Greek *Horae*), is the name of an ancient circular dance, which survived up to now days in Romania. In the ancient times, naked women danced it. In Romania there were found three clay depictions of this dance, two of them having five dancers and one with six dancers. The last one, which is the most famous, was found at Bodești-Frumușica, in Moldova. All of them are dating from 4000 – 3000 BC.

The village of Pojorâta is in the region of Bucovina, at the foot on Mount Rarau, in the department (*județul* in Romanian) of Suceava. The village, seven kilometres west of the city of Câmpulung Moldovenesc, stretches along a valley of beautiful landscapes.

Hora pojorenilor is a suite of three dances. The first, *Pădurețul* (which means small forest) was originally danced by men only. It is followed by two mixed dances: *Huțulca* and *Coșnencuța*, inspired and influenced by the Hutsul ethnic minority, who live in the area.

A Slavic people whose origins are shrouded in mystery, the Hutsuls appeared in the 17th century in what is now Bucovina. They came from the north, from the least inhabited part of the Carpathians, between Bucovina and Galicia.

They were summoned by large monasteries, which needed men to work as loggers. In return, the Hutsuls were given land to clear and farm. Ten times greater in Ukraine, the Hutsul population in Romania today probably stands at around 20,000, mainly in Bucovina. Until very recently, they lived on the margin of Romanian society. They have preserved their dialect (including a lot of Ukrainian and a smattering of Romanian words) and fascinating traditions, the best known being the art of egg painting.

Formation: mixed circle or small mixed circles (approx. 8-10 people)

Position: free, hands holding vest, facing LOD

Pronunciation: HOH-rah poh-zhoh-REH-nee-lohr

Music: *Sonia Dion & Cristian Florescu Romanian Realm Vol. 5*, band 1

Final pattern:

First Dance (*Pădurețul*);

F1 (LOD) + F2 + F1 (RLOD) + F2 + F1 (LOD) + F2 + F1 (RLOD) + F2

+

Second Dance (*Huțulca*);

(F1 x2) + F2 + (F1 x3) + F2 +

(F1 x2) + F2 + (F1 x3) + F2.

+

Third Dance (*Coșnencuța*);

F1 + F2, four time.

Meter: 2/4

Description of *Hora pojorenilor*

Meas. Count **First Dance: *Pădurețul*** (puh-doo-REH-tsool)

1-3 Introduction (fade-in)
No action

Figure 1 (Promenade) (Shouting)
(facing LOD or RLOD)

1-16 Do 32 small walking steps starting with R ft

Style: With each step, the shoulders sway very slightly toward the side of the foot taking the weight.

Note: During last measure, turn $\frac{1}{4}$ t. to be facing center.

Figure 2 (*Running two-step*) (Instrumental)
(facing center)

1-8 Do 8 small *running two-step* in place

Description of *running two-step*:

1	1	Very small step on R to the right and body turning slightly to the left
	&	Step on L near R ft
	2	Step on R in place
	&	Pause

2 Repeat measure **1** with opp. ftwk and direction.

Note: The whole first dance is repeated with the same ftwk but in the opp. direction.

Note: Last time, during last measures (depending of the size of the circle) move slightly forward
(to adjust the dimension of the circle) while hands come down and join in V position to be ready
to start the second dance.

Meter: 2/4

Description of *Hora pojorenilor* (continued)

Meas. Count

Second Dance: *Huțulca* (hoo-TSOOL-kah)
(facing center, hands joined in V pos.)

Figure 1 (Rhythm: Q-Q-S, Q-Q-S, Q-Q-S, S-S)

1 1 Small hop, close to floor, on L ft
 & Step on R swd to the right
 2 Close L near R ft
 & Pause

2-3 Repeat measure **1**, twice (3 in total)

4 1 Small bounce on both heels
 2 Small bounce on both heels

Note: accent is down, down

5-8 Repeat measures **1-4** with opp. ftwk and direction

Figure 2

1 1&2 Do 3 small running steps (R, L, R) (flat ft) twd center
 & Stamp with L near R ft (no wt)

Optional shout: ‘Și una!’ (shee OO-nah)

2 Repeat measure **1** with opp ftwk (starting L ft)

Optional shout: ‘Și două!’ (shee DOH-oeuh)

3 Repeat measure **1**, but without stamp on L

Optional shout: ‘Și trei!’ (shee TREH(ee))

4 1-2 Wt on R, stamp twice with L ft (no wt)

Optional shout: ‘Hop șa!’ (hohp shah)

5-7 Do 3 small *running two-step* bkwd starting with L ft

8 1-2 Wt on L, stamp twice with R ft (no wt)

16. Repeat measures **1-8**

Meter: 2/4

Description of *Hora pojorenilor* (continued)

Meas. Count **Third Dance: *Coșnencuța*** (kohsh-nehn-KOO-tsah)
(facing center, hands joined in V pos.
or arms held higher than in W pos. (at head level)
or back basket hold pos. for small circles that would like to turn
faster)

Figure 1

1 1 Step on R to the right (facing center)
 2 Close L next to R ft

2 1 Step on R to the right
 2 Very small hop on R heel and body sway to the right
(L leg straight, L toes touching floor, L heel up)

3-4 Repeat measures **1-2** with opp ftwk and direction

5-6 Repeat measures **1-2**

7 1 Step on L to the left
 2 Close R next to L ft

8 Do 1 small *running two-step* in place starting with L ft.
Optional shout: ‘Hop șa șa!’ (hohp shah SHAH)

9-16 Repeat measures **1-8**.

Figure 2

- 1** 1 Hop on L ft
 & Step on R to the right
 2 Cross L in front of R ft
 & Pause
- 2-7** Repeat measure **1** six more times (7 in total)
- 8** 1 Small bounce on both heels
 2 Small bounce on both heels
- 9-16** Repeat measures **1-8** with opp ftwk and direction
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Meter: 2/4

Description of *Hora pojorenilor*

Final pattern:

First Dance (*Pădurețul*);

F1 (LOD) + F2 + F1 (RLOD) + F2 + F1 (LOD) + F2 + F1 (RLOD) + F2

+

Second Dance (*Huțulca*);

(F1 x2) + F2 + (F1 x3) + F2 +

(F1 x2) + F2 + (F1 x3) + F2.

+

Third Dance (*Coșnencuța*);

F1 + F2, four time.