

Joc de Leagane
(Dragomiresti, Maramures, Translyvania)

Presented by Susan Hatlevig as taught by Theodor Vasilescu, August, 1993.* This dance was gathered by T. Vasilescu from the village of (DRAH-go-MEER-esht) in Transylvania.


FIGURE ONE

Arms: When starting the dance, the left arm is bent up and back with the left hand, palm down, over the left shoulder, grasping the right hand of the person behind. The right arm is extended diagonally left and forward so that the right hand grasps the left hand of the person in front. The person at the front of the line may hold the right arm by the side or at the hip. *(palm up)*

Facing LOD and Moving in LOD

- Touch ball of R next to L (full wt on left), Step R. (s,s)
- Repeat a with opp. ftwrk. (s,s)
- Step R, Step L. (s,s)
- Step R, Step L next to R, step R. (s,q,s)
- Repeat a-d with opp. ftwrk.

FIGURE TWO

Arms: While holding hands the arms come up over the head, and slightly forward so as to have a comfortable hold (dependent upon arm length). 

Facing Center and Moving Sideways in LOD (or in OLOD).

- Step R in LOD, Touch ball of L next to R. (s,q) *(face slightly to R)*
- Repeat a with opp. ftwrk. in OLOD. (s,q) *face slightly to L*
- Step R in LOD, close L next to R, Step R, touch ball of L next to R. (s,q,s,q) *face slightly to L, then R*
- Repeat a-c with opp. ftwrk. moving in OLOD.

FIGURE THREE

Arms: While holding hands bring arms down to sides during 1st two steps back, Hold them in V-hold taking last 3 steps back. Keep arms in v-hold bringing them back up overhead by last 3 steps forward. The last arm movement is a natural flowing progression.

Facing Center and Moving Backwards on 1st 5 steps, then Forward on Last 5 steps. These are distinct steps, not a swaying motion.

- Step back with R, back with L. (s,s)
- Step back with R, Step L foot next to R, step R foot back or nearly in place. (s,q,s)
- Step forward with L, forward with R. (s,s)
- Step forward with L, Step R foot next to L, Step L foot forward or nearly in place. (s,q,s)

FIGURE FOUR

Arms: Arms continue to remain overhead while holding hands.

Facing LOD and Moving in LOD

- a) Step R. (s)
- b) Step L, Step R next to L, Step L. (q,q,s)
- c) Repeat a,b with same ftwrk. (s,q,q,s)
- d) Step R, Step L. (s,s)

FIGURE FIVE

Arms: While holding hands, arms come down to sides in V-hold.

Facing Center and Moving Sideways in LOD, then Turning to Face OLOD.

- a) Step R, Step L behind R, Step R (turning to face OLOD). (s,q,s)
- b) Stamp L next to R with no wt (q).
- c) Moving in OLOD, Step L, Step R. (s,s)
- d) Keeping arms down in V-hold, Face Center and Repeat a-c with opp. ftwrk., eventually facing LOD on last 2 steps. (s,q,s,q,s,s)

FIGURE SIX

Arms: Down in V-hold, swinging backward while stepping on R, then forward while stepping on L. Do not sway hips, but the body may seem to move as a unit.

Facing LOD and Moving in LOD.

- a) Step R, Step L. (s,s)
- b) Repeat a. (s,s)
- c) Step R, Step L next to R, Step R. (q,q,s)
- d) Repeat c with opp. ftwrk. (q,q,s)

Bring arms back to beginning position at about c & d and start dance again. Repeat dance 3 times.

This dance does not have exaggerated hip movements. If anything the body may move as one unit as in Figure 2, slightly in a curved motion as if moving slightly around a circle. At this point in the dance (Fig 2) Theodor remarked, "This is the cradle". Otherwise the dance seems very crisp and exact-like Romanian dances feel to me. Mr. Vasilescu was recently in Norway with Alix Cordray, and she told me that he's the most professional dance teacher she's met. His dances never change from country to country or year to year. He has a very firm commitment to preserving the culture of his country and has spent his life sharing Romanian culture around the world. I have been honored with his teaching, and I hope to help in my small way to contribute to his commitment.

*This dance was not presented as a workshop dance and does not have official sanction by any dance club. It was shown to me and others by request.