

Joc din Rebrîșoara

From the region of Bistrița-Năsăud, Transylvania, Romania

Presented by Sonia Dion & Cristian Florescu

Rebrîșoara is a village in the beautiful mountainous county of Bistrița-Năsăud, in Transylvania. Its name comes from the Slavic word *rebro*, which means “hill”. The name of the river flowing through the region has the same origin. The first written mention of this river, *Rivulus Rebre*, appears in a document dated 1380.

Today the dances mostly done in the valley of Rebrîșoara are couple dances, although a few are danced in small circles. The latter are a reminder of times gone by when couple dances didn't exist. Villagers would form a closed circle and, always dancing on the beat of the music, would repeat the same movements and sequences with no variations or improvisation.

Nowadays in Rebrîșoara, during weddings or other celebrations, the dance (*joc*) may be done simultaneously by couples, threesomes, foursomes and small circles. The 2/4 music is slow and pleasant to listen to. The steps are large and elegant contributing to the dance's rather sublime nature in which the dancers delight and take great pride.

Formation: small mixed circles (8-10 people), spread around the dance floor

Position: facing center, hands joined down in V position

Pronunciation: ZHOK deen reh-bree-SHOHAH-rah

Music: *Sonia Dion & Cristian Florescu, Romanian Realm Vol.8, Band 4*

Meter: 2/4

Pattern of *Joc din Rebrîșoara*

Meas. Count

Introduction

1-16 No action

Figure 1

1 1& Step swd on R to the right
 2& Step on L next to R

2 1& Step swd on R to the right
 2& Touch L (no wt) near R ft

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

5 1 Step swd on R to the right
 & Step on L next to R
 2& Step swd on R to the right

6	1&	Step L across in front of R
	2	Step swd on R to the right
	&	Step on L next to R

 Meter: 2/4 Pattern of *Joc din Rebrîșoara* (continued)

Meas. Count **Figure 1** (continued)

7	1&	Step swd on R to the right
	2&	Step L across in front of R

8	1&	Step swd on R to the right while body sway to the right
	2&	Sway to the left, put weight on L

Figure 2

1-3 Repeat measures **1-3** of figure 1

4	1&	Step swd on L to the left while body sway to the left
	2&	Sway to the right, put weight on R

5	1&	Step L across in front of R
	2	Step swd on R to the right
	&	Step on L next to R

6	1&	Step swd on R to the right
	2&	Step L across in front of R

7	1	Step swd on R to the right
	&	Step on L next to R
	2&	Step swd on R to the right

8	1&	Step L across in front of R
	2&	Step swd on R to the right while body sway to the right

9-16 Repeat measures **1-8** with opposite ftwk and direction (starting L ft)

Note: On the last count of the dance, close L ft near R.

Final pattern:

Introduction +
 (F1 + F2) x 5.

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Song for Joc din Rebrîșoara

De la Rebrîșoara* în jos mândru-i locul și mănos.
De la Rebrîșoara în jos omu-i mândru și mănos.
hardworking.
De la Rebrîșoara în sus Dumnezeu raiul l-o pus
Iară eu copcilul lui în mijlocul raiului.

Rebrîșoara* is a beautiful, fertile place.
Down in Rebrîșoara, men are proud and
Up above Rebrîșoara is God's heaven.
And I, its child, am in between.

Doamne cât om-ni de dor de casă și de ogor
land,
De târnaț și de cuptor și de oala cu groștior**.
of *groștior***
Mi-e dor de părinții mei c-am crescut pe lângă ei
De-aș putea m-aș duce în zbor ca să m-ăstâmpăr de dor.
heart.

Oh Lord, how I miss my house and my
The veranda, the kitchen and the huge pot
I miss my parents with whom I grew up,
If I could, I would fly to them to ease my
heart.

Mi-amintesc copcil eram doamne cât ne mai jucam.
loved to play!
Se lăsa sara pe sat noi venem de la scăldat.
Era plină ulișoara de copcii din Rebrîșoara
Rebrîșoara,
În cămeșă și desculți Doamne cât eram de mulți.
many of us!

I remember when I was small—oh, how we
We would swim until sundown.
The lane teemed with the children of
In shirts and barefoot. Oh, there were so

Plăcinte mama făce cu dulceață le unge,
Luam în mână doua tri și-apoi fugeam la copcii.
friends.
Făcem lanț de gălbinele și cununi de sânziene.
Atunci era lumea me și-alta nu-mi mai trebuie.
was fulfilled.

My mother made delicious jam tarts.
I would grab two or three and run out to my
We'd make crowns of wildflowers.
At that moment I was King of the World and I

Iarna frigul și-l lăsa dar nouă nu ne păsa
Că nu ne mai dădem duși ziua de la săniuș.
Și ninge prin Rebrîșoara de nu vedeai ulișoara
the lane,
Prin omăt ne tăvălem nici-o grijă nu avem.
Unde s-o dus Doamne tăte aș căta da-n care parte,
would like to look

The winter was freezing but we didn't care,
We spent the whole day sliding on our sleds.
It snowed so hard in Rebrîșoara we couldn't see
We played in the snow without a care.
Oh my goodness, where has the time gone? I

Sat frumos unde ești Rebrișoară din povești.

for it, but which way should I go?
My beautiful Rebrișoara, where are you?
The village of my childhood.

*The name of a village.

**A local specialty similar to cheese.

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