

OROMNIA
(Romania)







The villages of Romania's southern plainland (along the Danube) are the richest repository for the "classical" type of circle dance known as the *hora*. Dances in this category number in the hundreds; they are usually large circles of men and women with hands joined, moving in slow-to-moderate 2/4 or 6/8 time with relatively simple steps in various directions.

Oromnia (oh-rohm-NEE-ah), from the Muntenia region, is a *hora* of a special subcategory, the so-called "stamping" *horas* (*hore bătute*), characterized by faster tempo, syncopated stamps, scuffs and taps, traveling two-steps and arm swinging. Natives associate these features with Gypsy dance style, and it is generally agreed that these "stamping" *horas* have been subject to Gypsy influence. Many of their names reflect this: *Țigăneasca* (from Romanian *țigăni* 'Gypsy'), *Romneasca* (from *rom*, the Gypsies' name for themselves), and it is possible that the name *Oromnia* is derived from *rom* also. Many U.S. and Canadian folk dancers are already familiar with other *horas* of this subcategory, e.g. *Ca la usa cortului* and *Hora la patru*.

Recording: Folkraft LP-33, B-10, *Oromnia*

Rhythm and meter: Notated in 2/4 time, but the dance steps are highly syncopated (see description below).

Formation: Circle, mixed men and women, hands joined and held at shoulder height ("W" position).

MEAS RHYTHM	ACTION
1-2 	Facing slightly R of ctr and moving fwd in LOD, 2 two-steps RLR, LRL (1 & 2, 1 & 2).
3 	Turning to face ctr, leap onto Rft from the front, displacing Lft backward and up, at the same time swinging joined hands down and slightly back (1); step Lft to R behind Rft (&); step Rft to R, bringing hands up toward "W" position again (2).
4 	With hands again in "W" position, step Lft in place (1); stamp Rft in place (no weight) (2).
5 	Very quick heel-drop on Lft followed by very quick tap with R heel (both mov'ts within count 1); stamp onto Rft (take weight) (&); pause (2); scuff L heel slightly fwd (&).
6 	Stamp onto Lft to L (take weight) (1); step Rft a bit behind Lft (&); step Lft beside Rft (2); scuff R heel a bit fwd (&).
7-8 	Step Rft to R (1); step Lft slightly behind Rft (&); step Rft to R (2); scuff L heel fwd, ending with Lft raised slightly in front (&); hold (1); heel-drop on both heels with L heel slightly fwd (&); heel-drop on both heels again, with feet side by side (2).

Notes by Dick Crum