

Perinița

(Muntenia, Romania)

Perinița (translation: the little pillow) is a distinctive Romanian dance of the kiss. Actually, this traditional dance is the most famous dance of the repertoire. Its origin is very old and comes from the south of the country.

This version of *Perinița* is composed of a *Sârba* dance (with three basic figures) done while dancing in a mixed circle. It should be noted that the *Perinița*, from region to region, will vary. To clarify exactly what defines a *Perinița*, one need only look at the story of the dance rather than the steps; in which alternately men and women pick their partners from the circle of dancers. A brief exchange (to be decided by the dancers) and a kiss upon the dance floor while the couple kneels in the middle of the *Sârba* on a little pillow or an embroidered handkerchief. Examples of this brief exchange could be, a short swirl, a little waltz or whatever comes to mind. Meanwhile, all the other dancers are performing the choreographed sequence. After the kissing, the last person chosen will choose a new partner, while his former partner takes his place in the *Sârba*.

Perinița was traditionally performed on the night of the New Year or was the last dance of a wedding celebration. Now, each happy event may include it.

Pronunciation: peh-ree-NEE-tsah

Music: *Sonia Dion & Cristian Florescu, Special Edition, Band 11 or Sonia Dion & Cristian Florescu, Vol. 1, Band 12* 4/4 meter

Formation: Mixed circle, hands in W-pos

Steps & Styling: Hands describe tiny circles (up first, twd ctr of circle) in W-pos. At least one handkerchief is required and, if the group is very important, use more than one to have more participation or repeat the music.

While a solo dancer is selecting a partner for the kiss, he/she twirls the handkerchief, either overhead or between two hands, and dances in the circle, taking time to flirt, eye the possible dancers in the circle, make a decision. Upon selecting a partner, the handkerchief is looped over the head and around the neck of the desired person and he/she is pulled into the center of the circle for the brief exchange. The first dancer opens the handkerchief on the ground and both kneel on it facing each other. Exchange of a kiss and/or a hug is made and the person who was selected takes the handkerchief and dances to select a new partner while the first dancer returns to the circle of dancers.

Meas

Pattern

INTRODUCTION. None

I. MOVING TO THE R, HANDS IN W-POS

- 1 Step on R twd ctr, body slightly diag to the R (ct 1); step on L twd ctr (ct 2); step on R twd ctr (ct 3); wt on R, lift R heel raising L ft near R ankle (ct 4).
- 3-8 Repeat meas 1-2, three more times (4 total).

Perinița—continued

- 2 Step bkwd on L, body slightly diag to L (ct 1); step on R bkwd (ct 2); step bkwd on L (ct 3); wt on L, lift L heel raising R ft near L ankle.
Note: Meas 1-2 describe a saw-tooth pattern.

II. SÂRBA PE TREI – MOVING LOD

- 1 Step on R fwd swinging arms down in V pos. -- up then down and bkwd (ct1); lift R heel raising L ft near R ankle (ct 2); step on L fwd swinging arms up in W-pos. -- slightly bkwd then up (ct 3); lift L heel raising R ft near L ankle (ct 4).
 2 Step fwd on R, hands in W-pos making small circles (ct 1); step fwd on L (ct 2); step fwd on R (ct 3); lift R heel raising L ft near R ankle (ct 4).
 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk, still moving LOD.
 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.

III. SÂRBA PE APTRU

- 1 Step on R fwd swinging arms down (ct 1); lift R heel raising L ft near R ankle (ct 2); step on L fwd swinging arms up (ct 3); lift L heel raising R ft near L ankle (ct 4).
 2 Step fwd on R, hands in W-pos making small circles (ct 1); step fwd on L (ct 2); step fwd on R (ct 3); step on L fwd (ct 4).
 3-8 Repeat meas 1-2, three more times (4 total).

SEQUENCE: Fig 1 + Fig 2 + Fig 3 alternating according to the music.

Presented by Sonia Dion and Cristian Florescu