

Hungarians in Moldva

In a 1997 research paper written by Vilmos Tánczos, it is reported that there exist 243,133 Catholics in the counties comprising the Moldva region according to the 1992 Romanian census. The accepted notion among the Hungarian and international academic community is that the origin of these Catholics, (aside from the minor % of Romania, German, Polish, Italian and Gypsies) is Hungarian. In fact, if you ask a Moldvai Csángó what his nationality is, he will respond "Katolikus". In other numberings, those Katolikus in Moldva that still speak Hungarian number anywhere from 5,000 to 100,000 in 90 some villages. It is commonly accepted that they moved out of Transylvania and settled in Moldva in the early 1200s.

The Moldvai Csángó were isolated from the rest of the Hungarians living West of the Carpathian Mountains. In spite of these harsh circumstances they preserved the beautiful archaic form of their language and rich Hungarian folklore. Their dialect differs from the rest of Hungarian dialects to the West, because the language reform of the 19th century as well as the new vocabulary of the 20th century didn't reach them. During the Ceausescu regime, Hungarians living in Transylvania were even barred from traveling to Moldva. Consequently, the Moldvai Csángó were further isolated.

After 1989 when Ceausescu's reign was severed, the floodgates were opened and ethnographers and folklorists anxiously descended on those villages. What they saw was a people whose folk music and dance were strongly influenced by their Romanian neighbors. The treasure trove that researchers found was a language, folk tales and folk songs from the Middle Ages preserving a language no longer spoken elsewhere in Europe. I was told that I shouldn't go to Moldva without a Hungarian along to translate as their language is so archaic, it is sometimes difficult for a modern day Hungarian to even understand. Each village has 20 to 30 dances, the majority of which are circle and line dances. A few of the couple dances show links to an archaic layer of Transylvanian Hungarian dances, while most have the set structure common to the couple dances of the Moldavian Romanians. Sadly, I have never had the opportunity to visit Moldva. These dances I have learned from Hungarians who have researched them. Moldavian Hungarian dances are very popular in the táncház movements with dances devoted exclusively to Moldavia and folk bands that specialize in the instruments and dance tunes of this region.

Because these dances are relatively simple, they pose a nice bridge for Hungarian dance in the recreational repertoire. I have chosen only couple dances because my emphasis at this camp is on couple dances. These dances come primarily from the village of Klézse.

HOINA

Hoina is the Romanian and more commonly used name for this dance. Its Hungarian name is Bulgáros (like Bulgarians dance).

IN & OUT Couples in varsouvienne position in a circle, facing center. Both M and W on same foot. Move twd center of circle flat footed with a bend in the knees, starting R. 1,2, 3 & 4. Repeat moving away from center starting L. 1, 2, 3 & 4. Rpt. Total 8 times or 4 "breaths" of the circle.

PEEK a BOO Facing center of the circle, Dbl Csárdás (R) 1,2,3,4. Rpt. opposite. Total 8 times done in the following variations.

1. Moving Dbl Cs. R, W turns slightly to peek at man over her L shldr.f Rpt opp.
2. M leads W in Dbl Cs. to L as he goes R. They peak at each other over her R shldr. Rpt. opp.

MUSIC Dűvö: Moldvai Táncok. Dance on CD spelled Hojna

SONG Each line is sung twice:

Elindultam szörkötni--szederinda rinda
I set off to tie some fur (translation may be off--szörkötni may be archaic)

Hát a szörrel mit csinálsz--szederinda rinda
What are you going to do with the fur?

Szitát kötök belöle--szederinda rinda
I will make a colander out of it

A szitával mit csinálsz--szederinda rinda
What are you going to do with the colander?

Lisztet szitálgatok véle--szederinda rinda
I'll sift the flour with it

Hát a liszttel mit csinálsz--szederinda rinda
What are you going to do with the flour?

Málét sűtök belöle--szederinda rinda
I'll bake corn bread out of it

A máléval mit csinálsz--szederinda rinda
What are you going to do with the corn bread?

Szeretöt fogadok véle--szederinda rinda
I'm going to catch a lover with it

Szeretövel mit csinálsz--szederinda rinda
What will you do with a lover?

Nappal véle kapálgatok--szederinda rinda
By day we will hoe together

Éjjel véle hálogatok--szederinda rinda
By night we will sleep together

KECSKÉS (Goat dance)

This dance is comprised of a very simple running and turning step. The fun is in the command and following them on a moment's notice. Becomes a type of mixer. Couples face CCW in a circle in varsouvienne position with the W on the outside. Really doesn't matter which foot you start on.

RUNNING STEP

Run forward 1, & 2 (ti ti ta); moving forward in circle.

COMMANDS

“Inditsd meg” -- move forward “hátra felé inditsd meg” -- turn backwards and move forward
 “előbb előbb még előbb” -- forward forward farther forward (W advance to M in front of them)
 “sűritsd meg fordítsd meg” -- mix it up, turn it up (cpl turn)

Couples basically run in a circle moving forward, turning toward the outside of the circle when told to reverse. NOTE: Once reversing the direction of the circle, all commands reorient to direction reached. In other words, having reversed the direction to CW, the command to reverse now puts the circle turning CCW. When the command for turning comes, the couples executing the same running step. The M turns into W and turns her CW opening up to start the dance again.

MUSIC Kolompos Ensemble

SONG

Túl a vízen kicsi ház

Benne leány mit csinálsz

There is a girl in a little house past the waters, what are you doing

Csinosítom magamat

Várom a galambomat

I'm preening myself while waiting for my dove (sweetheart)

Ki ez este bejött volt

Kilenc almát hozott volt

He came in last night and brought 9 apples with him

Mind a kilenc piros vót

S a legény es serény vót

All 9 were red and the lad was shy also

Zurgó dió, mogyoró

S az a leányoknak jó

Rattling walnut, hazelnut, that is good for the girls

Kert tetején döglött ló

S az a legényeknek jó

At the top of the garden a dead horse, that is good for the boys

S aki reánk haragszik

Egyen szilvát tavaszig

And whoever is angry with us can eat plums until spring

Tavasz után egeret

Míg a szeme kimered

After spring they can eat mice until their eyes fall out

DE DOI

De Doi is the Romanian and more commonly used name for this dance. Its Hungarian name is Kettőske, (two by two).

SCHOTTISCHE Basic step is a 1, 2, 3 hop. Couples in a circle holding hands low, W to R of M. LEAP STEP Step R, leap onto L, Rpt same.

CIRCLE TURN Starting to the R on the R foot, do a Schottische step and reverse direction on the hop. Rpt opp for a total of 4x.

COUPLE TURN On last schottische hop to L, M pulls W to his L side (hand hold above elbows) and turns toward her. Couple does Leap step turning CW for 16 cts. W opens to circle on last leap.

LAPOS MAGYAROS

Lapos Magyaros is the common used name in Hungarian. It translates as Flat or Smooth Hungarian.

WALKING TWO-STEP or CIFRA Basic step is a walk walk walk in 1 & 2 rhythm. Couples in a circle varsouvienne position facing CCW, W to R of M. This step travels, steps reach fwd.

CIRCLE TURN Couples move fwd in LOD for 8 walking two-steps, turn away from circle to face RLOD on last walking two-step. Rpt in opp direction.

COUPLE TURN M brings W in front of him facing center of circle. He turns her on previous two-step. 2 in place, 2 to turn: Two-step in place--when starting R, R shldr moves fwd and M looks over W L shldr, rpt opp. Turn W under her R arm. Rpt opp. Total 4x moving into LOD at end.

MUSIC Tatros Ensemble: Moldvai Csángó Zene, 1988

SIRBA OFICERASCA

Sirba Oficerasca or Oficerasca is the Romanian name. TISZTI is the Hungarian name. It translates as Dance of an Officer. This is a very exuberant dance done as couples in lines, either short or longer. W is to R of M with belt or front baskethold.

CHARGE STEP Forward: starting R ft, run fwd--step, hop (R) step, hop (L), two step in place which is the same as an open csárdás step (R) (L) (R). Backward: starting L, move backward.

Lines of couples charge each other, back up, turn and charge same line or other line.

COUPLE TURN Resting: Cpls break off line and face each other, shoulder/waist hold. Csardas step R, L, R, L (both on same foot) Turning: Face to face, cpls hop, st. st. (L, hop, step R, L-- 1&2 rhythm), also done to the other side. Transition (M): jump on both slightly apart, jump close 2x, taking weight on opp foot to start turning sequence opp.

MUSIC Tatros Ensemble: Moldvai Csángó Zene, 1988