

Hora pojorenilor

(Pojorâta, Bucovina, Romania)

Hora (plural *Hore*; same as Greek *Horae*), is the name of an ancient circle dance which has survived up to today in Romania. In the ancient times, naked women danced it. In Romania three clay depictions of this dance were found, two of them showing five dancers and one showing six dancers. The last one, the most famous, was found at Bodești-Frumușica in Moldavia. All of them date from 4000–3000 B.C.

The village of Pojorâta is in the region of Bucovina, at the foot on Mount Raru, in the department (*județul* in Romanian) of Suceava. The village, seven kilometers west of the city of Câmpulung Moldovenesc, stretches along a valley of beautiful landscapes.

Hora pojorenilor is a suite of three dances. The first, *Pădurețul* (which means small forest) was originally danced by men only. It is followed by two mixed dances: *Huțulca* and *Coșnencuța*, inspired and influenced by the Hutsul ethnic minority, who live in the area.

A Slavic people whose origins are shrouded in mystery, the Hutsuls appeared in the 17th century in what is now Bucovina. They came from the north, from the least-inhabited part of the Carpathians, between Bucovina and Galicia.

They were summoned by large monasteries, which needed men to work as loggers. In return, the Hutsuls were given land to clear and farm. Ten times greater in Ukraine, the Hutsul population in Romania today probably stands at around 20,000, mainly in Bucovina. Until very recently, they lived on the margin of Romanian society. They have preserved their dialect (including a lot of Ukrainian and a smattering of Romanian words) and fascinating traditions, the best-known being the art of egg painting.

Pronunciation: HOH-rah poh-zhoh-REH-nee-lohr

Music: 2/4 meter *Sonia Dion & Cristian Florescu Romanian Realm Vol. 5, Band 1*

Formation: Mixed circle or small mixed circles of 8-10 dancers; hands free or hold vest in a relaxed fashion, facing CCW.

Steps & Styling: Running Two-Step:
Very small step R to R, body turning slightly to L (ct 1); step L next to R (ct &); step R in place (ct 2); pause (ct &). Repeat with opp ftwk and direction.

Meas 2/4 meter

Pattern

1-3 INTRODUCTION. Fade in. No action

FIRST DANCE *Pădurețul* (puh-doo-REH-tsool)

I. PROMENADE, SHOUTING

1-16 Facing LOD, 32 small walking steps starting R. With each step, shldrs sway very slightly toward the side of the ft taking wt. Note: During final meas, turn ¼ to end facing ctr.

II. RUNNING TWO-STEP (instrumental)

1-8 Facing ctr, 8 small Running Two-Steps in place while turning slightly side to side

Note: The entire First Dance is repeated with the same ftwk but in the opp direction. The last time through, begin moving fwd while hands come down and join in V-pos

SECOND DANCE *Huțulca* (hoo-TSOOL-kah)I. RHYTHM: QQS, QQS, QQS, SS

1 Facing ctr, hands joined in V-pos, small hop on L (ct 1); step R swd to R (ct &); step L next to R (ct 2); pause (ct &).

2-3 Repeat meas 1 twice (three times total).

4 Small bounce on both heels (ct 1); small bounce on both heels (ct 2).

5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 with opp ftwk and direction.

II. IN AND OUT

1 Take 3 small flat-footed running steps twd ctr beg with R (1&2); stamp L next to R without wt (ct &). Optional shout during cts 1-2: “Și una!” (shee OO-nah)

2 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk, starting with L. Optional shout: “Și două!” (shee DOH-uh)

3 Repeat meas 1 without the final stamp. Optional shout: “Și trei!” (shee TRE-ih)

4 Stamp L twice without wt next to R (cts 1-2). Optional shout: “Hop șa!” (HOHP SHAH)

5-7 3 small Running Two-Steps bkwd starting with L.

8 Wt on L, stamp R twice without wt (cts 1-2).

9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.

THIRD DANCE *Coșnencuța* (kohsh-nehn-KOO-tsah)

Facing ctr, hands joined in V-pos or back basket hold for small circles that would like to turn faster.

I. STEP, CLOSE, STEP, HOP

1 Facing ctr, step R to R (ct 1); step L next to R (ct 2).

2 Step R to R (ct 1); very small hop on R heel and body sway R with L leg straight and L toes touching floor, L heel up (ct 2).

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

5-6 Repeat meas 1-2.

7 Step L to L (ct 1); step R next to L ft (ct 2).

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- 8 1 small Running Two-Step in place starting with L. Optional shout: “Hop șa șa!”
(HOHP shah SHAH)
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.
- II. HOP, STEP, CROSS
- 1 Hop on L (ct 1); step R to R (ct &); step L across in front of R (ct 2); pause
(ct &).
- 2-7 Repeat meas 1 six more times (seven times total).
- 8 Small bounce on both heels (ct 1); small bounce on both heels (ct 2).
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8 with opp ftwk and direction.

Sequence:

First Dance (*Pădurețul*):

Fig I (LOD), Fig II, Fig I (RLOD), Fig II, Fig I (LOD), Fig II, Fig I (RLOD), Fig II

Second Dance (*Huțulca*):

(Fig I x2), Fig II, (Fig I x3), Fig II

(Fig I x2), Fig II, (Fig I x3), Fig II

Third Dance (*Coșnencuța*):

Fig I, Fig II, four times.

Presented by Sonia Dion & Cristian Florescu