

CORĂGHEASCĂ

Romania (Moldavia Region)

1/2

Notes by Dick Crum, revised 9/89.

Corăghească (ko-rug-YAHSS-kah, from a dialect form of the word *corabie*, 'ship') is a dance name found in many places in Moldavia (eastern Romania). Dances bearing this name differ widely in their steps and music. The version described here is from Bacău county, and was originally danced by men only.

Meter: 2/4

Recordings: Folkraft LP 33, *Corăgheasca*

Formation: Dancers (originally M only) in an open circle or line, arms on neighbors' shoulders. End-persons have hands on own hip.

MEAS

ACTION

Variation 1 - Basic step with 2 stamps

- 1 Facing very slightly L of center, hop on Rft (1); still facing slightly L, step Lft behind Rft (&); pause (2); turning to face center, step Rft to R (&).
- 2 Turning to face slightly R of center, step Lft forward in Line of direction, leading with L heel (1); close Rft up to Lft (&); stamp onto Lft forward in line of direction (2); pause, or, as some native dancers occasionally do, scuff R heel forward (&).
- 3 Facing center, stamp Rft beside Lft without taking weight on Rft (1); stamp Rft beside Lft again, this time taking weight (2).

Variation 2 - Basic step with "pas-de-basque"

- 1-2 Same as meas 1-2 of Variation 1.
- 3 Step Rft lightly (on ball of foot) in front of Lft (2); step Lft in place (now behind Rft) (&); again step on Rft in front of Lft (2); pause (&).

Variation 3 - Basic step with "rat-a-tat"

- 1 Same as meas 1 of Variation 1, but on last count "&" turn to face center rather than slightly R.
- 2 Facing center, step Lft beside Rft, bending L knee slightly (1); stamp Rft slightly sideways R, taking weight on Rft and straightening knees to normal (&); repeat movements of counts 1, & of this measure (2, &).
- 3 Facing center, step Lft beside Rft, bending L knee slightly (1); stamp Rft beside Lft, without taking weight on Rft (&); stamp Rft slightly to R, taking weight on Rft (2); pause (&).

Variation 4 - Basic step with R heel click

- 1-2 Same as meas 1-2 of Variation 1.
- 3 Facing center, click R heel against L heel, hopping on Lft (1); leap onto Rft sideways R (2).

Variation 5 - Basic step with click of both heels in air

- 1-2 Same as meas 1-2 of Variation 1.
- 3 Facing center, land on both feet flat and apart (not far, about 6 inches), knees slightly bent (1); rising off floor, click both heels together in air (not exaggeratedly high) (&); land on Rft in place (2); pause (&).

Note on sequence: The above variations are not to be considered as "figures" performed in a set sequence. Each dancer does the variation(s) he or she wishes at any given time. The only occasions on which the variations might be done in an agreed-upon sequence would be for presentation to an audience or to facilitate learning the dance in class.