

Dana

From the region of Muntenia, Romania
Presented by Sonia Dion and Cristian Florescu

In the Romanian folk repertoire, we find many modern dances with Eastern inspiration and influence. These dances are called *Manele*. Among them *Dana*, one of the most popular, is performed by gypsies who live near the capital city of Bucharest or in other major cities in southern Romania. Those gypsies came from Turkey, as is clear from the music and steps to this dance. The music is so powerful and stirring, it is impossible to listen to it without dancing.

Formation: mixed open circle

Position: hands free

Pronunciation: DAH-nah

Music: *Sonia Dion & Cristian Florescu Romanian Realm Vol. 1, Band 6*

Style : Gypsy style; exuberant, snapping fingers, ululating, shaking shoulders
Ladies more feminine, Eastern movements with hands, shaking necklaces

Meter : 2/4

Description of *Dana*

Meas. Count

1-4 1-8

Introduction*

(hands free, arms down bent from the elbows parallel to the ground (L pos.), feet together bouncing on heels)

Figure 1

(facing center, moving to the right (LOD))

*hands parallel to floor
shoulders move up & down*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | Step L across in front of R Step on R to the right |
| | 2 | |

2-6 Repeat measure 1, five more times

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 7 | 1 | Step L across in front of R Step on R in place Step on L close to R |
| | & | |
| | 2 | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 8 | 1 | Step R across in front of L Step on L in place Step on R close to L |
| | & | |
| | 2 | |

9-10 Repeat measure 1, two times

11-12 Repeat measures 7-8**
**Touch R beside L on last count, first time only

*(Note: replace introduction measures by 4 additional measures of measure 1, fig 1)

Figure 2

(hands free, arms higher than shoulders in U position)

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | 1 | Large step on R ft to the R, body in diag. to the R, raising arms Large step L ft across in front of R ft |
| | 2 | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2 | 1 | Large step on R to the right Touch with R ball, body facing center |
| | 2 | |

Meter : 2/4

Description of *Dana* (continued)

Meas. Count

Figure 2 (continued)

3-4 Repeat measures 1-2 with opposite ftwk and direction

5-8 Repeat measures 1-4

Figure 3

1 1 Large step on R to the right, body in diag. to the right
2 Large step L across in front of R

2 1 Large step on R to the right
2 Raise L leg, bent knee 100° in front

3-4 Repeat measures 1-2 with opposite ftwk and direction

5-8 Repeat measures 1-4

Figure 4

(hands free in U position, may clap hands on each beat)

1-2 1-3 Execute 1 full turn to the right (CW), moving LOD with 3 steps starting with R ft

4 Raise L leg, bent knee 100° in front, facing center

3-4 Repeat measures 1-2 with opposite ftwk and direction

5-8 Repeat measures 1-4, on the last count Touch with R ball near L
except the last time (before fig.1) end with Step R beside L (take wt)

Figure 5

(hands free in almost W position, shoulder-level)

(ladies doing shimmying movement and turning wrists)

1 1 Body facing diag. to the left, touch with R ball,
2 crossing in front of L
Touch with R ball behind

2 1 Touch with R ball, crossing in front of L
2 Step on R close to L

3-4 Repeat measures 1-2 with opposite ftwk and direction

5-8 Repeat measures 1-4 but on the last count Touch with L ball

Transition

1-2 Bounce on both heels, 4 times

3-4 Moving bkwd with 4 steps, starting with R ft and raising hands gradually above shoulders (U position)

Handwritten notes:
Q Q Q
clap-clap-clap
clap-clap-clap
clap-clap-clap
hold arm in front clap clap
clap-clap-clap
clap-clap-clap
clap-clap-clap
Step R leg, L leg
L leg, clap
Q Q Q S

Handwritten notes:
raise arms up waist
eastern arms
30

Meter : 2/4

Description of *Dana* (continued)

Meas. Count

Figure 6

(wt on L, forearms: "windshield wiper" movement)

- 1 1 Stamp on R in front, diag. to the left, arms moving to the right toe to L
 2 Stamp on R in front, diag. to the right, arms moving to the left toe to front
- 2 Repeat measure 1
- 3 1 Step R across in front of L, arms moving to the right jazz square
 2 Step on L bkwd, arms moving to the left
- 4 1 Step R to the right, arms moving to the right
 2 Step on L fwd, arms moving to the left
- (Note: Meas. 3-4 = Jazzbox)
- 5-20 Repeat measures 1-4, 4 times (5 total) women do "lu-lu-lu-lu" on fifth time

Figure 1' (finale)

- 1-16 Same sequences as figure 1
- 17 1 Step L across in front of R
 & Step on R in place
 2 Step on L close to R
- 18 1 Stamp on R
 & Stamp on R

Final pattern:

Introduction

F1 (24 ct) + F2 + F3 + F4 + F5 + F1 (32 ct) + Transition +
F2 + F3 + F4 + F5 + F1 (32 ct) + Transition + F6 +
F2 + F3 + F4 + F1'.

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