

Briu Bătrîn
(Romania)

Briu Bătrîn (BRIH-oo buh-TRIN) danced throughout Banat, the southwest area of Romania, belongs to the family of dances called "briu". Briu also means "belt" but in this case the word refers to the dance family. Mihai David presented the dance at the 1982 University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp. He learned it from his brother, Alexandru, who learned it from Ion Petcu, former soloist with the Romanian Rhapsody Ensemble, now chairman of folk dance teaching at the Popular School of Arts in Bucharest.

RECORD: Gypsy Camp Vol. IV (33) Side B/4 2/4 meter

FORMATION: Short lines of dancers in "T" pos: hands on nearest shldr of neighbors, arms extended. Face ctr, wt on L ft.

STYLE: Light and free flowing; continually moving; stand erect; pliés (bend of knee) well defined.

MUSIC 2/4 meter

PATTERN

Measures

8 meas INTRODUCTION. No action

1 Facing ctr, step on R in place (ct 1); raise L knee and extend ft twd ctr (ct 2).

2 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk.

3 Step on R to R (ct 1); step on L across in front of R in plié (ct 2).

4 Step on R to R (ct 1); step on L across in front of R (ct 2); step on R to R (ct &).

5 Step on L across in front of R (ct 1); step on R diag bkwd R (ct 2).

NOTE: Meas 3-5 move smoothly and swiftly in LOD (CCW) facing ctr.

6 Facing L of ctr and moving in RLOD, step on L (ct 1); step on R across in front of L (ct 2); step on L (ct &).

7 Step on R in RLOD (ct 1); take a long step diag fwd L on L in plié (ct 2).

8 Step on R in back of L turning to face ctr (ct 1); step on L near R (ct 2).

Repeat dance from beginning