Hora gospodarilor

From Suceava, Romania
Presented by Sonia Dion and Cristian Florescu

Suceava is a Romanian *judeţ* (county) in northwestern Moldavia, better known as Bucovina (meaning "land of beeches"). Visitors come here in droves to see the famous monasteries and churches whose interiors and outside walls are decorated with colourful frescoes. The most famous one is Voroneţ, a medieval monastery built in 1488 by order of Ştefan cel Mare şi Sfânt (Stephen the Great). Often called the "Sistine Chapel of the East," it is one of the eight churches in Moldavia named as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Monasteries, villages and cities of historical and architectural importance are dotted about Suceava County, a setting of bucolic countryside, mountains (400 to 1000 metres high), rivers, streams and valleys. The inhabitants are generous and proud of their traditions, and mark the stages of life with meaningful celebrations.

Traditionally, marriage was of course a major step in a man's life. The festivities held after the religious ceremony consisted of dances and rituals following ancestral traditions. For example, the bride danced a *hora* only with the other married women. The groom did the same with the other married men. Then the newlyweds danced a *hora gospodarilor* with all the guests who were married. The word *gospodar* means "head of the household" but has a broader meaning for Romanians.

Today, in the villages of northern Moldavia such as Pojorâta, Vama, Sadova and Câmpulung, dance evenings are organized that are so popular they represent a new fashion in folklore. More conservative individuals see these *balul gospodarilor* as going against tradition and think they shouldn't be held. However, the evenings are an occasion for people to dress up, dance, sing and share traditional dishes. They also give elders the opportunity to hand down to the younger generations basic elements of their heritage and identity.

Formation: closed mixed circle
Position: hands joined in W pos., facing center
Pronunciation: HOH-rah GOHS-poh-dah-ree-lohr
Music: *Sonia Dion & Cristian Florescu Romanian Realm Vol. 8,* Band16

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Meter: 2/4   Description of *Hora gospodarilor*

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Meas.	Count	**Introduction**
1-16		no action

Meter: 2/4   Description of *Hora gospodarilor* (continued)

Meas.   Count   **<u>Figure 1</u>** (Basic steps of *Hora mare*)
                     (Facing and moving diag. to the right)

1   1&   Step on R fwd
           2&   Step on L fwd

2   1&   Step on R fwd
           2&   Touch with L ball (no wt) near R ft, facing center

3-4   Repeat measures **1-2** with opp ftwk, moving bkwd and facing diag. to the left

5-8   Repeat measures **1-4**

                     <u>Figure 2</u>
                     (Facing diag. to the right and moving in LOD)

1   1   Step fwd on R
           &   Close L near R
           2&   Step fwd on R

2   1   Step fwd on L
           &   Step fwd on R
           2&   Step fwd on L

Note: measures **1-2** = two *two-steps*

3   1&   Turn ½ t. to L and step bkwd on R (still moving in LOD) and
                     bring arms down in V pos.
           2&   Step bkwd on L

4   1&   Step bkwd on R
           2&   Step bkwd on L

5   1   Facing and moving twd center, step fwd on R while bring arms up in
                     W pos.
           &   Step on L near R
           2&   Step fwd on R

6   1&   Step fwd on L

            2&   Step R across in front while swing arms down and bend slightly upper
            body in front

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Meter: 2/4   Description of *Hora gospodarilor* (continued)
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Meas.   Count   **Figure 2** (continued)

7   1&   Step bkwd on L while bring arms up in W pos.

            2&   Step bkwd on R

8   1   Step bkwd on L

            &   Step on R near L

            2&   Step bkwd on L

Final pattern:

Introduction +
(F1 + F2) x 9.

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