

Opinca

From Bucovina (area north of Moldova), Romania
Presented by Sonia Dion and Cristian Florescu

Opinci, primitive leather shoes with laces, were worn by most peasants until the 1950s. In certain rural regions, they are still worn on holidays. Like French clogs, the *Opinci* are the symbol of Romanian peasants. The slightly drawn out rhythm suggests elderly dancers. *Opinca* is a dance consisting of two alternating parts. The first one is an archaic dance with an irregular rhythm: 1-2-3, 1-2-3, 1-2. The second part is from the great variety of *Hora moldovans*.

Formation: mixed circle

Position: handhold in V pos.

Pronunciation: oh-PEEN-kah

Style: swinging arms (fig. 1'): fwd (1&), bkwd (&3), fwd (&), bkwd (4&)
(Arms rhythm (fig. 1'): slow-slow-quick-slow)

Meter : 2/4

Description of *Opinca*

Meas. Count

1-12 24 **Musical introduction** (optional action)
feet together, bouncing (slow-quick-slow-quick-slow),
hands in W pos. bringing hands down to V pos.
on the last two meas.

Figure 1: Opinca

(hands joined in V position, facing center)

(Rhythm of steps: slow-quick-slow-quick-slow)

1-2	1&	Step on R to the right, facing slightly the moving direction, raise L leg slightly
	2	Bounce on R heel
	&3	Step on L fwd
	&	Step on R fwd
	4&	Step on L fwd raising R leg slightly, turning (¼ t.) to the left
3-4	1&	Step on R to the right, turning (¼ t.) to the left, raise L leg slightly
	2	Bounce on R heel
	&3	Step on L bkwd
	&	Step on R bkwd
	4&	Step on L bkwd raising R leg slightly

Meter : 2/4

Description of *Opinca* (continued)

Meas. Count **Figure 1** (continued)

5-6 Repeat measures **1-2**, same ftwk but moving to the left

7-8 Repeat measures **1-2**, same ftwk but turning CCW $\frac{1}{2}$ t to face LOD
as you step on R (ct 1)

9-16 Repeat measures **1-8**

Figure 1' (same steps as fig.1 with swinging arms, see **Style**)

15-16 Ending on the CCW $\frac{3}{4}$ t with 3 steps starting with R . Ending ft together, hands joined W.

Transition

1-2 1-4 Walking 4 steps to the right (LOD) starting with R, raising arms gradually
to W position

Figure 2

(hands in W pos. doing tiny circles, facing center)

1-2 1 Step on R fwd (twrd center)
 2 Step on L fwd
 3 Step on R fwd
 4 Touch with L ball

3-4 1 Step on L bkwd
 2 Step on R bkwd
 3 Step on L bkwd
 4 Touch with R ball

5 1 Step on R fwd
 2 Touch with L ball

6 1 Step on L bkwd
 2 Touch with R ball

7-8 1-4 Repeat measures **1-2**

9-16 1-16 Repeat meas. **1-8** with opposite ftwk and direction
(Style: hands doing tiny circles (up first, twd center of circle))

Meter : 2/4

Description of *Opinca* (continued)

Meas.	Count	<u>Figure 3</u>
1	1	Step R across in front of L
	2	Step L to the left (swd)
2	1	Step R across behind L (across back of L)
	2	Step L to the left (swd)
(Note: Meas. 1-2 = grapevine)		
3	1-2	Repeat measure 1
4	1	Stamp on R in front, diag. to the left
	2	Stamp on R in front, diag. to the right
5-7	1-6	Repeat measures 1-3
8	1	Step R across in back of L
	2	Stamp L near R (without wt), ft parallel, L slightly fwd
9	1	Step L across in front of R
	2	Step R to the right (swd)
10	1	Step L across in back of R
	2	Step R to the right
11-14	1-8	Repeat measures 9-10, twice (3 total)
15	1	Step L across in front of R
	2	Step R to the right
16	1	Step L across in back of R
	2	Touch with R ball to the right

(Note: Meas. 9-16 = 4 grapevines, except ct 2 of meas. 16)

Transition

1-4 1-8 Walking 8 steps to the right (LOD), starting with R

Meter : 2/4

Description of *Opinca* (continued)

Meas.	Count	Figure 4 (facing center, hands slightly higher than W pos.)
1-2	1	Feet in second pos., sway to the R, put weight on R (Style: double bounce on R heel)
	2	Feet in second pos., sway to the L, put weight on L (double bounce on L heel)
3	1	Step R to the right
	2	Step L across in front of R
4	1	Step R to the right
	2	Stamp L in front
5-8	1-8	Repeat measures 1-4 with opposite ftwk and direction
9-10	1	Step on R, raising L leg in front (knee slightly bent)
	2	Pause
	3	Step on L, raising L leg in front (knee slightly bent)
	4	Pause
11	1	Step R to the right
	2	Step L across in front of R
12	1	Step R to the right
	&	Step on L
	2	Step on R
13-14	1-4	Repeat measures 9-10 with opposite ftwk
15	1	Step L to the left
	2	Step R across in front of L
16	1	Step L to the left
	2	Stamp with R in front, bringing hands down to V pos.

Final pattern:

F1 + Trans. (4 ct) + F2 + F3 + Trans. (8 ct) + F4 + F1 +
F1' + Trans. (4 ct) + F2 + F3 + Trans. (8 ct) + F4 + F1 +
F1' ending.

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Strigături* for Opinca (Bucovina)

Presented by Sonia Dion and Cristian Florescu 2004

Hăi cine joacă și nu strigă
Are-n gură mămăligă
Cine strigă și nu joacă
Facăi-se gura seacă

Asta-i hora horelor
Hora moldovenilor
Hora mare românească
Cine-o joacă să trăiască

Translation

Anyone who dances and doesn't shout
Has *mamaliga*** in their mouth
Anyone who shouts and doesn't dance
Will have a dry mouth

This is the *Hora* to end all *Horas*
The *Hora* of the Moldavians
The great Romanian *Hora*
Long life to those who dance it

* Shouting/chanting

** *Mamaliga*: Romanian dish made of cornmeal, similar to Italian *polenta*