

# Te aven baxtale

Gypsy dance, Romania

Presented by Sonia Dion & Cristian Florescu

In Romania Gypsies are mentioned for the first time in the 16th century in Walachia. From there they migrated to Transylvania and later into West Europe. It is interesting to know that Gypsies in Romania were slaves until the nineteenth century.

**Formation:** mixed circle or couple or free

**Position:** free hands, facing center

**Pronunciation:** teh ah-VEHN bahf-TAH-leh

**Music:** *Sonia Dion & Cristian Florescu Romanian Realm Vol.1*, Band 4 or

*Sonia Dion & Cristian Florescu, 60<sup>th</sup> Stockton Folk Dance Camp*, Band 5

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Meter: 2/4

Pattern of *Te aven baxtale*  
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Meas.      Count

**1-24                      Introduction** (no action or improvisation)

## **Figure 1**

- |              |                  |   |
|--------------|------------------|---|
| <b>1</b>     | 1<br>&<br>2<br>& | Step on R in place<br>Step on L in place<br>Step on R in place<br>Stamp on L in place (no wt)   |
| <b>2</b>     |                  | Repeat measure <b>1</b> with opposite ftwk (starting L ft)  |
| <b>3-4</b>   |                  | Repeat measures <b>1-2</b>  |
| <b>5-6</b>   |                  | Repeat measures <b>1-2</b>  |
| <b>7</b>     |                  | Repeat measure <b>1</b>   |
| <b>8</b>     |                  | Repeat measure <b>2</b> , do not stamp on R (last &)  |
| <b>9</b>     | 1<br>2           | Large step on R to R, body slightly to the right<br>Cross in front with L ft  |
| <b>10</b>    | 1<br>2           | Large step on R to R bending on R knee and body facing center<br>Touch with L heel (no wt), L leg extend in L diag. in front<br>and turn body to the same diag.<br>M may slap L thigh with L hand |
| <b>11-12</b> |                  | Repeat measures <b>9-10</b> with opposite ftwk and direction (starting with L ft)   |
| <b>13-16</b> |                  | Repeat measures <b>9-12</b>   |
| <b>17-20</b> |                  | Repeat measures <b>5-8</b>  |
| <b>21-24</b> |                  | Repeat measures <b>9-12</b>   |

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Meter: 2/4

Pattern of *Te aven baxtale* (continued)  
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Meas.      Count

**Figure 2**

**1**            1            Step on R heel twd center  
                 2            Step on full R ft

**2**            Repeat measure **1** with opposite ftwk

**3-4**          Repeat measures **7-8** of figure **1** (starting R ft)

**5**            1            Step on R ball bkwd  
                 2            Step on full R ft

**6**            Repeat measure **5** with opposite ftwk

**7-8**          Repeat measures **7-8** of figure **1**

**9-24**        Repeat measures **1-8**, two more times (3 total)

**Style:** When you hit the floor with the ball of the foot (meas. **1-2** ct 2) or your heel (meas. **5-6** ct 2), you should do it so that the sound is heard.

Note: Variation for couples or two concentric circles (inner circle facing outwards and therefore facing the dancers in the outer circle): One partner or circle does figure 2 as described, i.e., moving forward (meas. 1-2) and the other starts by moving backward (meas. 5-6).

E.g.: M: (1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8), repeat 3 times

W: (5-6, 3-4, 1-2, 7-8), repeat 3 times

**Figure 3**

**1**            1            Standing on L, touch with R heel to R (no wt), R leg extend straight  
                 2            Standing on L, touch with R heel in front (no wt)

**2**            1            Step on R ft twd (slightly) center  
                 &            Step on L ft behind (slightly) R ft  
                 2            Step on R ft twd (slightly) center  
                 &            Scuff with L heel (no wt)

**3**            1            Raise L leg (45°) in front, knee bend (45°)  
                 &            Stamp on L ft in place (no wt)  
                 2            Stamp on L ft in place (with wt)

- 4-6 Repeat measure **1-3**  
 7 Repeat measures **1**
- 8        1        Step bkwd on R ft  
           2        Step bkwd on L ft
- 9-24 Repeat measures **1-8**, two more times (3 total)

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 Meter: 2/4                      Pattern of *Te aven baxtale* (continued)  
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Meas.    Count                **Figure 3** (continued)

Note:

Variation for couples: This figure (fig. **3**) may be done facing your partner, each of you turning around the other (CCW).

Variations for two concentric circles (inner circle facing outwards and therefore facing the dancers in the outer circle): While doing this figure (fig. **3**), move slightly to the right; since everyone moves to their right, they will have someone new opposite them each time. You may also choose to turn around the person opposite you.

Final pattern:

Intro. + F1 + F2 + F3 +  
           F1 + F2 + F3 +  
           F1 (Final: last measure; (1) Fall on both ft together ('*Assemblé*'))

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