

BĂRBĂTESCU
(The Men's Dance)

Source: Valeriu Buciu, professional folklorist and choreographer from Baia Mare, Maramureș county

Recording: Balkan-Arts 45rpm

This circle dance for men only is widespread in the northern part of Maramureș county, along the banks of the Iza river. It is a member of a family of dances called "de sărit" (jumping). The dance has many variations, and is controlled by a leader, who signals a change of steps by whistling in rhythm. The other dancers follow him, copying whatever step he chooses to do. The steps below are fairly representative, and are arranged in a reasonable sequence for recreational dancing.

The music is in 2/4, but the underlying rhythm is a 2-measure pattern of slow-quick-slow-quick-slow (♩ ♪ ♩ ♪ ♩). Steps are done flat-footed, with a slight bend at the knees; upper body is very straight.

Figure I (♩ ♪ ♩ ♪ ♩)

- Meas 1 Facing CCW around circle in single file, hands hanging loosely at sides, step forward on L foot (1) stamp R foot beside L and a little forward (&) step on R foot beside L (2) step forward on L foot (&)
- Meas 2 Stamp R foot beside L and a little forward (1) step on R foot beside L (&) stamp L foot beside R and a little forward (2)

Figure II (♩ ♪ ♩ ♪ ♩)

- Meas 1 Facing center of circle with weight on both feet together, bounce on both feet bending both knees and clapping hands in front of chest (1) repeat bounce & clap twice (2,&)
- Meas 2 No action on count 1. Repeat bounce & clap twice more (&,2)

Figure III (♩ ♪ ♩ ♪ ♩)

- Meas 1 Reaching out to join hands down, hop on L foot turning body to L and kicking R foot sharply across to L (1) Turning back to center, hop again on L foot (2) continuing to turn gradually to R, step to R on R foot (&)
- Meas 2 Continuing gradual turn, step on L foot beside R (1) step to R/forward on R foot (&) now facing CCW, step slightly forward on L foot (2). The final four steps of this figure should be stressed so that they are heard.

Figure IV (♩ ♪ ♩ ♪ ♩)

Facing center with hands free at sides, repeat action of Figure II but omit clapping.

BĂRBĂTESCU (continued)

Figure V (♩ ♩ ♩ ♩ ♩ ♩ ♩)

- Meas 1 Same as measure 1, Figure 1.
- Meas 2 Stamp R foot beside L and a little forward (1) step on R foot beside L (&) step forward on L foot with slight accent (2) step forward on R foot with slight accent (&).

Figure VI (♩ ♩ ♩ ♩ ♩)

- Meas 1 Facing center with weight on both feet together, bounce lightly on both feet bending knees slightly and clapping hands in front of chest (1) straightening knees, clap hands twice more in front of chest (2,&)
- Meas 2 Clap hands twice more (1,&) bend both knees sharply clapping hands once more (2)

Figure VII (♩ ♩ ♩ ♩ ♩)

- Meas 1 Facing CCW around circle with weight on L foot, turn body a little to L and raise R foot in preparation. Hop on L foot bringing R foot to L foot with a heel-click, moving a little diagonally R/forward (1) repeat action of count 1 (2) fall sharply onto R foot in place, turning body a little to R and raising L foot (&)
- Meas 2 No action on count 1. Repeat action of counts 2,& of measure 1 (click, fall) reversing footwork and direction (&,2). This step moves gradually CCW around the circle.

Presented by Glenn Nielsen at Kolo Festival 1983