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BĂRBĂTESCU
(Maramureș Region, Romania)

Bărbătescu (buh-r-buh-TESS-koo; "young man's dance") was until recently also known as "Feciorescu", "Bătrînescu" or "De Sărit". It belongs to the category of men's dances known as "De Sărit" or "jumping dances". It is performed in a circle with the dancers moving CCW (sometimes joined, sometimes not) with stamps, heel clicks and clapping while often doing bouncing steps in place. The rhythm patterns of the steps vary greatly and are generally syncopated against a 2/4 meter. As learned from Valeriu Buciu.

Recordings: Electrecord ST-EPE 01683, or Fuge Imaginea FI 102-B (Bătrînescu).
On a soon to be released NOROC record.

Formation: Circle of dancers (traditionally young men) facing CCW, L ft free. On some occasions, the R hand can rest on the L shoulder of the person in front of you.

meas

pattern

(In the description below, the letter S (slow) will indicate a quarter-note (♩) and the letter Q (quick) will indicate an eighth note (♪).

Figure I

- 1 Q Accented step fwd with L ft and slight flex of L knee.
Q Tap R heel fwd (no wt).
Q Step R ft slightly fwd.
Q Accented step fwd with L ft and slight flex of L knee.
- 2 Q Tap R heel fwd (no wt).
Q Step R ft slightly fwd.
S Stamp L ft next to but slightly fwd of R ft (no wt).

Repeat this figure until leader changes to another one.

Figure II

Turn to face the ctr of the circle.

- 1-2 S Jump onto both feet together, knees bent.
Q Bounce on both feet together, knees straight.
S Bounce on both feet together, knees bent.
Q Repeat Q ct.
S Repeat S ct.

note: This step can be accompanied by clapping hands in front at about eye level or above, S-Q-S-Q-S.

Figure III

Still facing ctr, join hands in closed circled arms in a "V" pos.

1 S Hop on L ft and pump-kick R ft across and in front of L ft.

Q Hop on L ft and turn to face slightly to R.

Q Accented step fwd with R ft, knees straight.

2 Q Step L ft next to R ft, knees slightly bent.

Q Accented step fwd with R ft, knees straight.

S Step L ft next to R ft, knees slightly bent.

note: This step progresses to R.

Figure IV

1-2 Can be done as Fig. II, but without the claps Arms hang loosely to side or clicks can be done on the two "Q" steps.

Figure V

Turn to face R (CCW).

1-2 S Hop fwd on L ft and click R ft to L ft (Bokázó-like).

Q Hop fwd on L ft and click R ft to L ft (Bokázó-like).

S Step R ft fwd, knees bent slightly.

Q Hop fwd on R ft and click L ft to R ft (Bokázó-like).

S Step L ft fwd.

Figure VI

1-2 Turn to face ctr and clap the beat-S-Q-Q-Q-Q-S. On each S clap, sharply bend knees and promptly return to straight-leg pos during the Q claps.

SEQUENCE: The sequence and length of time for the above figures is arbitrarily determined by a leader who changes figures at will with a loud whistle or command.