

BRÂUL BORLOVENILOR

Borlova - Banat

The word "brâu" has a lot of meanings sometimes representing a repeated decorative pattern which adorns the upper part of the houses or rooms, the pottery and also the embroidery on the upper part of the sleeves of the traditional folk blouses. It also means the embroidered coloured woolen sash or belt woven in different sizes. By extention it represents a line of dancers. Maybe, because the dancers during the men challenging dances were holding the hands in the belt, such dances were called by the name of belt = brâu. Anyhow many dances in different regions are called "brâu". Most of them are men dances. But one may find also women or girl brâu (Brâul femeilor, Brâulețul fetelor.) Men line dances with syncopated steps and challenging figures are mostly found in the Carpathian area and they form the category of "Carpathian brâu". Brâul from Banat has completely another structure with soft crossing steps, smaller or larger steps on the rhythm of 7/16. One of the most representative of them is Brâul Borlovenilor. Its characteristic is that the pattern of the basic figure (which has 2 variants A₁ and A₂) is developed on a pattern of 9 meas as well as the music which has also 9 meas for this part. The second part is developed on 8 meas.

Pronunciation: BREH-ool bohr-loh -VEH-nee-lohr

Formation: men open circle with hands in V-pos or on the shoulders

Rhythm: 7/16 of the type 3+2+2

Videotape: Lia and Theodor Vasilescu: 25 Romanian Folk Dances 8

PATTERN

Measure

INTRODUCTION: 16 meas. No action.

PART A₁

- 1 Facing ctr, step aside on R to R (cts 1,2,3); step on L across R (cts 4,5)); step on R behind L (cts 6,7).
- 2 Step on L next to R while R is raised with bent knee circling CCW (cts 1,2,3); moving fwd twd ctr, step on R across L (cts 4,5,6,7).
- 3 Hop on R while L is raised with bent knee circling CW (cts 1,2,3); moving twd ctr, step on L across R (cts 4,5,6,7)
- 4 Repeat meas 3 with opp ftwk in the same direction.
- 5 Facing ctr and moving bkwd, hop on R while L is raised with bent knee circling CCW (cts 1,2,3); moving bkwd, step on L behind R (cts 4,5,6,7).
- 6 Repeat meas 5 with opp ftwk in the same direction.
- 7 Repeat meas 5.
- 8 Lift and drop on L while R is raised fwd with knee slightly bent (cts 1,2,3); stamp fwd without wt on R heel (cts 4,5); stamp fwd without wt on R heel (cts 6,7).
- 9 Stamp fwd without wt on R heel (cts 1,2,3); stamp fwd without wt on R heel (cts 4,5,6,7).
- 10-18 Repeat meas 1-9.

PART A₂

- 1-3 Repeat meas 1-3 of Part A₁.
- 4 Facing diag R of ctr and moving in LOD, lift and drop on L heel while R kicks (cts 1,2,3); lift and drop on L heel while R kicks (cts 4,5); step on R next to L (cts 6,7).
- 5 Step on L across R (cts 1,2,3); facing ctr and moving bkwd, step on R behind L (cts 4,5,6,7).
- 6 Repeat meas 5 of Part A₁.
- 7 Repeat meas 6 of Part A₁.
- 8 Repeat meas 4 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 9 Step on R across L (cts 1,2,3); step on L behind R (cts 4,5,6,7).

10-18 Repeat meas 1-9.

PART B

- 1 Lift and drop on L heel while R is raised fwd with knee slightly bent (cts 1,2,3); stamp fwd without wt on R heel (cts 4,5); stamp fwd without wt on R heel (cts 6,7).
- 2 Stamp fwd without wt on R heel (cts 1,2,3); stamp fwd without wt on R heel (cts 4,5,6,7).
- 3 Lift and drop L heel while R is raised bkwd with knee slightly bent (cts 1,2,3); touch R toe behind (cts 4,5); touch R toe behind (cts 6,7).
- 4 Touch R toe behind (cts 1,2,3); touch R toe behind (cts 4,5,6,7).
- 5 Lift and drop L heel while R is raised fwd at 60° (cts 1,2,3); touch R heel on L knee (cts 4,5); touch R heel on L knee (cts 6,7).
- 6 Touch R heel on L knee (cts 1,2,3); touch R heel on L knee (cts 4,5,6,7).
- 7 Stamping step on R in place (cts 1,2,3); stamping step on L in place (cts 4,5); stamping step on R in place (cts 6,7).
- 8 Stamping step on L in place (cts 1,2,3); stamping step on R in place (cts 4,5,6,7).
- 9-10 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk.
- 11 Put L knee on ground, put both hands on R knee (cts 1,2,3); hold (cts 4,5,6,7).
- 12 Hold (cts 1-7).
- 13 Open hands as having the intention to clap (cts 1,2,3); clap hands (cts 4,5); clap hands (cts 6,7).
- 14 Clap hands (cts 1,2,3); clap hands and stand up (cts 4,5,6,7).
- 15-16 Repeat meas 7-8 with opp ftwk.

SEQUENCE: A₁,B,A₂,B, A₁,B,A₂,B, A₁,B,A₂,B © 2004 by Theodor Vasilescu

Presented by Lia & Theodor Vasilescu

