

## Fecioreasca

(Transylvania, Rumania)

Fecioreasca belongs to the family of men's dances characteristic of Transylvanian dance culture. Literally it means young men's dance and is known by the Hungarians as Legenyes. These dances are virtousic in character and are truly a pinnacle in ethnic dance culture. The Rumanians, in comparison to Hungarians, tend to dance the Fecioreasca in a group form where all dancers perform the same or very similar steps. The Hungarians perform the Legenyes as a solo or more individual in form. The rhythmical structure of the Fecioreasca, like that of the Invirtita, is worth discussing. It is generally syncopated and often difficult to ascribe to a particular meter. It is therefore preferable to think in terms of dancer's beats or accents. The basic breakdown of beats is 3: Long-short-short (or Slow-quick-quick), but this can be further broken up.

Some basic Fecioreasca rhythms are:

2/4	● ↓ ● ↓ ● ↓
7/8	● ↓ ● ↓ ● ↓
8/8	○ ↓ ● ↓ ● ↓ or ● ↓ ● ↓ ● ↓ = SQS
9/8	○ ↓ ● ↓ ● ↓
10/8	○ ↓ ● ↓ ● ↓

These steps come from the village of Vistea de Jos in South-Eastern Transylvania and were learned from Zoltan Farkas in Budapest.

Pronunciation: fetch-eeor-YAH-skah

Record: NOROC 2708 B

Formation: Men, solo, in a circle facing center.

Rhythm: 9/8 meter

Dancer's cts	1	2	3	or	1	&	2	3
	○ ↓	● ↓	● ↓		● ↓	● ↓	● ↓	● ↓
	S	q	q+		q-	s	q	q+ here s=q+

### Meas

### Pattern

- TRAVELING STEP** (S q q+).
- 1 Step on R ft (knee bent, with down accent) to L behind L ft (ct 1); hop on R ft slightly to L and bring L ft sharply up to pos in front of R knee (ct 2); step on L ft to L, hips twist slightly to L (ct 3).
  - 2 Step on R ft (knee bent, with down accent) to L in front of L ft, hips turn to R (ct 1); hop on R ft and bring L ft up and behind R knee (ct 2); step on L ft to L, hips turn to R (ct 3).
  - 3-6 Repeat meas 1-2 twice.
  - 7 Repeat meas 1.
  - 8 (q- s q q+) Facing ctr with wt on L ft (knee bent), touch R heel in front of L ft (ct 1); touch ball of R ft (partial wt) to R of L ft (ct &); close R ft sharply to L ft (ct 2); fall onto L ft in place freeing R ft (ct 3).
  - 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.

Fecioreasca (continued)

- REST STEP I** (q- s (q q+)) + (S q q+) Note: (q q+) = S+.
- 1 Preparing to leap onto R ft, bring R ft (knee extended) out and in front (ct 1); leap onto R ft across and in front of L ft (ct &); hold (ct 2); step on L ft diag back to L (ct 3). Note: R leg sweeps low fwd and across before leaping.
  - 2 Close R ft sharply to L ft with wt transfer (ct 1); step on L ft diag back to L (ct 2); step on R ft fwd and slightly diag R (ct 3).
  - 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp frwk and direction.
  - 5-6 Repeat meas 1-2.
  - 7 L ft moves in a reverse bicycle motion diag to L while preparing to leap onto L ft in place (ct 1); leap onto L ft in place and bring R ft (knee bent and turned out) to L knee (ct &); hold but prepare to leap onto R ft in place (ct 2); leap onto R ft in place and bring L ft up to diag L side (ct 3).
  - 8 Leap onto L ft in place and bring R ft (knee bent) to L knee (ct 1); bounce on both ft together (ct 2); bounce on L ft and free R ft (ct 3).
  - 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8 but on last ct of meas 16 (meas 8), bounce on both ft (ct 3).

- REST STEP II** (q- s S+) + (S q q+).
- 1 Facing R of ctr, bounce/lift on L ft and raise R ft slightly (ct 1); tap R ft slightly to R (ct &); step on R ft fwd with accent (ct 2); hold (ct 3).
  - 2 Step on L ft fwd (across and in front of R ft)(ct 1); turning to face ctr, tap R heel to R (ct 2); step R ft to R with slight accent (ct 3).
  - 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp frwk and direction.
  - 5-6 Repeat meas 1-2 but, on last ct of meas 6 (ct 3), jump fwd onto both ft with accent and knees bent (ct 3).
  - 7 Chug back on both ft (knees extended)(ct 1); fall onto R ft in place and lift L ft up and in back (ct &); touch L toe behind and to R of R ft (knee bent)(ct 2); lift on R ft and bring L ft around and to L (ct 3).
  - 8 Close L ft sharply to R ft (knees bent)(ct 1); step on R ft slightly fwd (knees extended)(ct 2); step on L ft fwd (knees bent)(ct 3).
  - 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.

- SLAP SEQUENCE I** (q- s q q+) + (S q q+).
- 1 Slap L hand against L thigh and lift/hop on L ft bringing R ft up and out to R side (knee bent)(ct 1); slap R hand against R outer heel out to R side (ct &); step on R ft (almost a running step) in place (ct 2); step on L ft (almost running) in place (ct 3).
  - 2 Bend L knee slightly and touch R toe back (accented)(ct 1); bounce on L ft and bring R ft fwd low (ct 2); tap R heel fwd (ct 3).
  - 3 Repeat meas 1.
  - 4 Run on R ft in place and lift L ft up slightly in front (ct 1); slap L hand against L thigh as L ft does small reverse bicycle swing fwd (ct &); leap onto L ft in place and slap R hand against R boot top (ct 2); bring R ft down (leg straight) in front (ct 3).
  - 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.

Dance repeats from beginning. During 2nd time through, replace Slap Sequence I with Slap Sequence II.



Fecioreasca (continued)

- SLAP SEQUENCE II** (q- s q q+) + (S q q+).
- 1 With wt on L ft, R ft corkscrews (from knee down) from L side 2 o'clock CCW and slap R hand against R thigh (ct 1); as R heel comes around, slap R hand against R outer heel (ct &); R ft continues around, hold on L ft (ct 2); leap onto R ft across and in front of L ft and slap R hand against L inner heel behind R knee (ct 3).
  - 2 Step onto L ft in place and begin to "unwind" corkscrew CW (R knee down to R ft)(ct 1); slap R hand against R inner boot top (leg straight and fwd)(ct 2); leap onto R ft in place and slap R hand against L inner heel behind R knee (ct 3).
  - 3-4 Leap onto L ft in place and repeat meas 3-4 of Slap Sequence I.
  - 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 of Slap Sequence II.

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