

FECIOREASCA FEMEILOR

de la Crihalma - Transilvania

In Transilvania, the traditional cycle of dances consists of mixed line dances as well as men, women or couple dances. The men dances are well known under the name of "Fecioreasca". "Fecior" means lad or young man. The name comes from Latin "fetiulus". When the couple dances are slow, they wear the name of "Purtata", when they are on a medium tempo, they are called "Învârtita" and when they are on a fast tempo, they are called "Hațegana" or "Rapid Învârtita". There exist also "Women Purtata" which are not couple but slow line dances. Nevertheless, in some villages of Transilvania, the traditional repertoire of dances includes also men dances performed by girls or women. Such dances could be found in Bihor (north-west of Transilvania) e.g. the dances called "Țura fetelor", in Sălaj (in Șeredei village) called "Muierasca", etc.

In south Transilvania, one may find such a type of women dance in the villages of Crihalma and Ticuș. The exact translation of the name "Fecioreasca femeilor" is men dance performed by women. Maybe, this is a sign of the emancipation of the women mentality met also in other folklore areas as for instance the appearance of women in very restricted men dances like "brâu" in Muntenia and Oltenia. The variant presented here has 8 parts: A(16 meas)+B(16 meas)+C(16 meas)+D(8 meas)+E(8 meas)+F(16 meas)+G(16 meas)+H(16 meas).

Pronunciation: feh-tcheeo-REAH-skuh feh-MEH-ee-lohr

Formation: women in circle, no hand holding.

Rhythm: 2/4 and 7/16

Videotape: Lia and Theodor Vasilescu, Romanian Folk Dances 8

PATTERN

Measure

INTRODUCTION:

PART A

- 1 Facing LOD and moving in LOD, large step on L (cts 1,&); kick R fwd (ct 2); step fwd on R (ct &).
- 2 Repeat meas 1.
- 3 Kick L fwd (ct 1); step fwd on L (ct &); kick R fwd (ct 2); step fwd on R (ct &).
- 4 Repeat meas 1.
- 5-16 Repeat meas 1-4 three times.

PART B

- 1 Repeat meas 1 of Part A.
- 2 Large step fwd on L (cts 1,&); kick R fwd (ct 2); facing ctr and moving aside in LOD, step on R to R (ct &);
- 3 Circle CCW raised L with knee slightly bent to arrive behind R (ct 1); step on L behind R (ct &); glide on L to face again LOD while kick R fwd (ct 2); step fwd on R (ct &).
- 4 Repeat meas 1.
- 5-16 Repeat meas 1-4 three times.

PART C

- 1 Facing LOD and moving in LOD, large step on L (cts 1,&); hop on L while R heel clicks L heel (spur) (ct 2); step fwd on R (ct &).
- 2 Repeat meas 1.
- 3 Hop on R while L heel clicks R heel (spur) (ct 1); step fwd on L (ct &); hop on L while R heel clicks L heel (spur) (ct 2); step fwd on R (ct &).
- 4 Repeat meas 1.
- 5-16 Repeat meas 1-4 three times.

PART D

- 1 Facing ctr and moving aside in LOD, step on L behind R (ct 1); stamping step on R to R (ct &); step on L across R (ct 2); stamping step on R to R (ct &).
- 2 Join L next to R bending both knees (ct 1); stretch knees (ct &); bend knees (ct 2); stamping step on L to L (ct &).
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.

PART E

- 1 Repeat meas 1 of Part D.
- 2 Soft stamp without wt on L heel next to R (ct 1); soft stamp without wt on L toe next to R (ct &); soft stamp without wt on L heel next to R (ct 2); stamping step on L to L (ct &).
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.

PART F

- 1-7 Repeat meas 1 of Part E seven times.
- 8 Repeat meas 2 of Part E.
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8 with opp ftwk and direction.

PART G

- 1 Leap stamping in place on R while L is raised with knee slightly bent behind R (cts 1,&); slide very little on R sole in CW while L is raised with knee slightly bent (ct 2); slide very little on R sole in CCW while L is raised with knee slightly bent (ct &).
- 2 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk and direction.
During meas 1-2 hands are swaying in parallel in front of the body as follows: during meas 1 aside to the right (cts 1,&); side left (ct 2); side right (ct &). During meas 2 aside to the left (cts 1,&); side right (ct 2); side left (ct &).
- 3-6 Repeat meas 1-2 twice.
- 7 Hold (ct &); leap on both ft joined (ct 1); hold (ct &); leap on both ft joined (ct 2).
- 8 Leap on both ft joined (cts 1,&); leap on both ft joined (ct 2); leap on both ft joined (ct &).
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.

PART H

- 1 Facing diag L of ctr and moving aside in RLOD. stamping step on L to L (cts 1,&); hop on L (ct 2); step on R across L (ct &).
- 2 Stamping step on L to L (ct 1); stamp without wt on R heel next to L (ct &); stamp without wt on R toe next to L (ct 2); stamp without wt on R heel next to L (ct &).
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 5-6 Repeat meas 1-2.
- 7-8 Repeat meas 7-8 of Part C.
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.

SEQUENCE: Repeat the pattern once more.