Joc de leagăne

(Romania)

Joc de leagăne (ZHOHK deh LAH-guh-neh) is a ceremonial type dance from Maramures. It is said that when a child reached the age of one to one and a half years, the mother would put him in a leagăne (cradle) in front of her chest and the village women would celebrate his good health by doing this dance. Nicolaas Hilferink learned the dance in Baie Mare in consultation with Theodor Vasilescu and has taught it extensively throughout North America. This description reflects his presentation at the 1988 University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp.

RECORD: Electrecord ST-CS 0185 Side A/9   2/4 meter

FORMATION: A closed, or open circle of W, facing LOD; hands joined and raised to about eye level, elbows bent. If M dance they form a line behind the W and use the same hand hold.

STYLING: The dance is quiet, gentle, smooth, feminine.

MUSIC 2/4	PATTERN

Measures

16 meas   INTRODUCTION. No action. *RAISE ARMS TO POSITION (SLOWLY) DURING LAST PART OF INTRO*

  I. MOVE IN LOD

1   Facing and moving in LOD, touch ball of R ft beside L ft (ct 1); step fwd on R ft (ct 2).

2   Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk.

3   Step fwd R,L (cts 1,2).

4   Step fwd on R ft (ct 1); step on L beside R (ct &); step fwd on R (ct 2).

5-8   Repeat meas 1-4 with opp ftwk.

  II. SWAYS

1   Facing ctr, step to R on R ft leaning to R, leaving L in place (cts 1-2). *(facing a little to left)*

2   Shift wt onto L leaning to L, leaving R in place (cts 1-2). *(facing a little to right)*

3   Shift wt onto R leaning to R (ct 1); step on L beside R (ct 2). *(facing a little to left)*

4   Repeat meas 1.

5-8   Repeat meas 1-4 with opp ftwk and direction, but on ct 2 of meas 8, touch R ft beside L without leaning.

  III. MOVE BACKWARD AND FORWARD; MOVE IN LOD

     Lower hands gradually to "V" pos during meas 1-2.

1   Step bkwd R,L (cts 1,2).

2   Take a small step bkwd on R, leaving L in place (ct 1); shift wt fwd onto L (ct &); shift wt bkwd onto R (ct 2). This little rocking motion is soft and subtle.

3-4   Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk and direction, raising hands to orig pos.

5 Facing and moving in LOD, step fwd R,L (cts 1,2); close R to L, taking wt (ct &).

6 ~~Step fwd L,R (cts 1,2).~~ Repeat (R, L close L)

7 ~~Step fwd L,R (cts 1,2); close L to R, taking wt (ct &).~~

8 Step fwd R,L (cts 1,2).

  ~~Note: Meas 5-8 could be cued as: Walk, 2-step, walk; walk, 2-step, walk.~~

IV. QUICK STEPS; WALK

1 Moving in LOD, take 3 small steps R,L,R (cts 1,&,2); light ~~stamp~~ brush on L beside R, while turning to face RLOD no wt (ct &).

2 ~~Turn to face RLOD and step~~ step fwd L,R (cts 1,2).

3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk and direction.

5-8 Moving in LOD, facing center and lowering hands to "V" pos, walk 8 steps fwd, beg R ft. As each step is taken full wt is put on that ft and the hands swing gently in response to the movement of the body.

DANCE SEQUENCE: Dance repeats twice more (3 times in all). Raise joined hands each time the dance begins.

LYRICS:

Mama cînd m-o leganat	2x	When my mother was rocking me	2x
Numai de dor mi-o cîntat	2x	She was singing of longing	2x
Mi-o cîntat de dor si-o plîns	2x	She was singing of longing and I cried	2x
Dorul de mine s-o prins	2x	I've been caught by longing	2x
De cînd port dor la inima	2x	Since my heart is longing	2x
Nu mai am nici o hodina		I have no respite	
Nici la prinz si nici la cina		Neither at noon or at evening	
Cite doruri rele-s grele	2x	How many longings? All are deep and bad	2x
Tate-s pa bratele mele	2x	All are in my arms	2x
Altul moare de batrîn	2x	One dies being old	2x
Nu sti dorul de ce-i bun	2x	Not knowing what's the good of longing	2x
Dar eu stiu ca l-am purtat	2x	But I know I've carried it	2x
De cînd mama mi-o cîntat	2x	Since my mother sang	2x

Ai la la la la etc.

© Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc. August 1988

Note: This dance was originally taught by Theodor Vasilescu, in Romania. Nick Hilferink learned it & taught it in the U.S. When Vasilescu came to the US he said Hilferink's version was all wrong & taught a slightly different version. But Vasilescu never provided written instructions, only a video, and everybody who saw it came away with a different version.

  The above modified instructions are a combination in an effort to standardize & thereby reduce the confusion.