

LEȘEASCA

de la Ilișești - Bucovina

Leșeasca is a men dance found in the northern part of Moldavia, especially in Bucovina. In its structure the syncopated steps QSSQS are always present. Another specific group of steps contains spurs (click on the heels). In fact this kind of spurs determined the peasants to put the name "Leșeasca" to this dance comparing the click of heels with those encountered in the Polish dances. The Polish man was called "Leș" in the old Romanian language. During the Middle Age there were many contacts even wars between Polish kings and Romanian kings as well as friendship treaties. Until the World War II Romania had a common border with Poland. This dance has 3 parts each of 16 meas.

Pronunciation: leh-SHEAH-skah deh lah ee-lee-SHASHTTE

Formation: men circle or open circle with hands in their vests

Rhythm: syncopated 2/4 meter of the type QSSQS

Videotape: Lia and Theodor Vasilescu. 25 Romanian Folk Dances

PATTERN

Measure

INTRODUCTION: 8 meas. No action.

PART A

- 1 Facing and moving in LOD, step on R swaying the upper body slightly to the R (ct 1); step on L swaying the upper body slightly to the L (ct 2).
- 2-4 Repeat meas 1 three times.
- 5 Moving in the same direction, lift and drop L heel (ct 1); stamping step on R swaying slightly the upper body to the R (cts &,2); stamping step on L swaying slightly the upper body to the L (ct &).
- 6 Hold (ct 1); stamping step on R swaying slightly the upper body to the R (ct &); stamping step on L swaying slightly the upper body to the L (ct 2).
- 7-8 Repeat meas 5-6.
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.

PART B

- 1 Facing diag R of ctr and moving in LOD, lift and drop on L heel (ct 1); stamp without wt on R (ct &); stamping step on R (ct 2).
- 2 Lift and drop on R heel (ct 1); stamp without wt on L (ct &); stamping step on L (ct 2).
- 3 Facing ctr and moving aside in LOD, step on R to R (ct 1); step on L behind R (ct 2).
- 4 Facing diag L of ctr and moving in LOD almost bkwd, step on R (ct 1); step on L (ct &); step on R (ct 2); stamp without wt on L next to R (ct &).
- 5 Facing diag L of ctr, raise L with knee slightly bent (ct 1); stamp without wt on L in place (ct &); stamping step on L (ct 2).
- 6 Facing diag L of ctr and moving in RLOD, lift and drop on L heel (ct 1); stamp without wt on R across L (ct &); stamping step on R (ct 2).
- 7 Facing ctr and moving aside in RLOD, step on L to L (ct 1); step on R behind L (ct 2).
- 8 Facing ctr, stamping step in place on L (ct 1); stamping step in place on R (ct &); stamping step on L (ct 2).
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.

PART C

- 1-2 Facing ctr and moving twd ctr, repeat meas 5-6 of Part A.
- 3-4 Facing ctr and moving bkwd out of ctr, repeat meas 1-2.
- 5 Facing ctr, stamping step on R to R (ct 1); hop on R while L is raised across R with knee slightly bent (ct 2).

- 6 Stamping step on L to L (ct 1); hop on L while R is raised across L with knee slightly bent (ct 2).
- 7 Facing ctr and moving aside in LOD, stamping step on R to R swaying the upper body slightly to the R (ct 1); stamping step on L next to R while swaying the upper body slightly to the L (ct &); stamping step on R to R swaying the upper body slightly to the R (ct 2); stamping step on L next to R while swaying the upper body slightly to the L (ct &).
- 8 Stamping step on R to R swaying the upper body slightly to the R (ct 1); stamping step on L next to R while swaying the upper body slightly to the L (ct &); stamping step on R to R swaying the upper body slightly to the R (ct 2).
- 9 Facing diag L of ctr and moving in RLOD, large step on L to L (ct 1); hop on L (ct 2).
- 10 Large step on R across L (ct 1); leap on R while L heel clicks on R heel (ct 2).
- 11 Facing ctr and moving aside in RLOD, step on L to L (ct 1); step on R behind L (ct 2).
- 12 Stamping step on L in place (ct 1); stamping step on R in place (ct &); stamping step on L in place (ct 2).
- 13 Facing ctr and moving twd ctr, lift and drop on L heel (ct 1); stamping step on R (ct &); stamping step on L next to R (ct 2).
- 14 Leap in place stamping on both ft joined (ct 1); hold (ct 2).
- 15 Facing ctr and moving bkwd out of ctr, lift and drop L heel (ct 1); stamping step on R (cts &,2); stamping step on L (ct &).
- 16 Hold (ct 1); stamping step on R (ct &); stamping step on L (ct 2).

SEQUENCE: Repeat pattern twice.

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