

Ca la Mahala
(Bucharest Gypsy Dance)

Source: Alexandru David
Pronunciation: Ka la ma-HA-la
Recording: Village dances of Romania CD Volume 4
Music: 4/4
Formation: open circle; 'W' hand hold with swinging arms

Meas Introduction

No action for 8 measures

Figure 1 - Facing ctr with hands in 'W' position

- 1 Moving twds ctr, step R (ct 1), step L (ct 2), step R (ct 3), stamp L beside R (ct 4), Arms: Reach fwd (ct 1), down to 'V' pos (ct 2), moving up to 'W' (ct 3), up in 'W' (ct 4)
- 2 Moving bkwds from ctr, step L (ct 1), step R (ct 2), step L (ct 4), stamp R beside L (ct 4), Arms: Extend hands fwd (ct 1), back to 'W' (ct 2), hands fwd (ct 3), back to 'W' (ct 4)

Figure 2 - variation of Figure 1

- 1 Twds ctr, two-step R-L-R (cts 1&2), two-step L-R-L (cts 3&4); same arms as Fig 1
- 2 Same as Figure 1, meas 2, starting with R foot; same arms as Fig 1

Figure 3

- 1 Facing ctr but moving to L, cross R ft in front of L (ct 1), step ball of L ft behind R (ct &), repeat cts 1& two more times (cts 2&3&), fall on R ft in front of L optionally kicking L ft up behind and slapping with R hand (ct 4)
- 2 Facing slightly to R, step bkwds on L (ct 1), step on R (ct &) with ball of foot (up motion), step on L (ct 2), stamp R heel (ct &), step fwds on R (ct 3), stamp L heel (ct &), step fwds on L (ct 4), scuff R heel turning to face slightly L (ct &)

Figure 4 - variation of Figure 1

- 1 Moving twds ctr, step R (ct 1), stamp L beside R (ct &), step L fwds (ct 2), stamp R beside L (ct &), step R fwds (ct 3), stamp L beside R (ct 4); same arms as Fig 1
- 2 Same as Figure 1, meas 2; same arms as Fig 1

Sequence on DVD:

Figure 1 (8 times)
Figure 2 (9 times)
Figure 3 (4 times)

Figure 1 (4 times)
Figure 2 (9 times)
Figure 3 (4 times)

Figure 1 (4 times)
Figure 2 (8 times)
Figure 3 (4 times)

Figure 1 (4 times)
Figure 4 (3 times)

Note: Figure 3 has its own melody.