

Hora Dragostei

(Moldova)

Hora Dragostei is a slow-tempo dance from Moldava. Hora is a national dance that requires a relatively large group of people to hold hands and form a circle. There can be several circles one inside of the other. This dance was choreographed by George and Irina Arabagi.

Pronunciation: HOH-rah DRAH-goh-stay

Translation: Hora means “circle dance”. “Dragoste” means “love”; “dragostei” includes the preposition “of” at the end. Possible translations are “The Love Hora”, “Hora of Love”, “Love’s Hora”.

Music: 4/4 meter *Ukrainian & Moldavian Dance Workshop*, Track 1

Formation: Mixed closed circle, body facing slightly diag R with arms in W-pos.

Steps & Styling: Crossing Step: Facing ctr, step L in front of R moving arms down, bending fwd at waist, looking R, tilting head to L (ct 1); step R to R moving arms up to W-pos and straighten at waist (ct &); step L next to R (ct 2). Can be done with opp ftwk and direction.

Move arms slightly up and down in W-pos, and bend knees before every step.

Meas. 4/4 Pattern

1 INTRODUCTION No action.

FIGURE I

1 Moving CCW, step L slightly diag fwd (ct 1); step R (ct 2); steps L-R-L (cts 3, &, 4), looking R, tilting head to L and bending both knees on ct 4.

2 Facing CW, with body upright, step R slightly bkwd (ct 1); step L (ct 2); steps R-L-R (cts 3, &, 4), turning body to face ctr on ct 4.

3 One Crossing Step to R starting with L (cts 1, &, 2); one Crossing Step to L starting with R (cts 3, &, 4) except touch the R ft so it is free for the next meas.

4 Facing ctr, 3 steps fwd with a downward motion R-L-R (cts 1, &, 2); straighten R knee turning head to L with L foot behind R (ct &); 2 steps bkwd with a downward motion L, R (cts 3, &), step L next to R (ct 4).

FIGURE II

1 Moving to R, lift R, bending both knees and tilting head to R (ct &), step R to R straightening knees (ct 1); lift L, bending both knees and straightening head (ct &), step L next to R straightening knees (ct 2); repeat cts &,1,&,2 (cts &, 3, &, 4).

2 Step R to R (ct 1); step L next to R (ct &); step R to R (ct 2); raise L ft in front of R ft bending L knee at 45° (ct &); one Crossing Step to R starting with L.

3-4 Repeat meas 1-2, except touch the L ft so it is free to start the dance.

Sequence: Fig I, Fig II – total 4 times.

Presented by George & Irina Arabagi