

Hora de la Soroca

Basarabia, Moldavia

Soroca, a town of some 40,000 inhabitants on the banks of the Nistru River, is the administrative seat of the district of the same name. The town's coat of arms displays the fortress of Soroca against a purple background. There are references as far back as the 15th century to Soroca as an important fortress in Moldavia's fortification system. The origin of the town's name is the subject of a dozen theories. One version claims it is taken from the Romanian word *soroci*, referring to sorcery and incantations. Less romantic versions would have it that *soroca* comes from the name of a landowner or, more likely, from the word *saraci*, meaning poverty.

We learned this dance with friends at a typical Moldavian party, where the atmosphere is bound to be warm, animated, festive and very joyous. A Moldavian evening is graced by music, dance, laughter, excellent food and lots of wine! The song that goes with this dance is sung here by Maria Iliu.

Pronunciation: HOH-rah deh lah soh-roh-KAH

Music: *Dion & Cristian Florescu Romanian Realm* vol. 2, band 1

2/4 meter

Formation: Mixed circle. Hands joined in W-pos, facing center.

Meas

Pattern

8 meas INTRODUCTION (No action)

PATTERN

- 1 Step on R sdwd to R, swinging forearms to R (windshield wiper movement) (ct 1); close L next to R (with wt), swinging arms to L (windshield wiper movement) (ct 2).
- 2 Step on R sdwd to R, swinging forearms to R (windshield wiper movement) (ct 1); close ball of L ft next to R (no wt), swinging arms to take original pos (W-pos) (ct 2).
- 3 Step fwd on L, arms extending fwd and downward (ct 1); lift on L, bringing R ft up (R toes near L ankle) arms continue swinging bkwd (very slightly) (ct 2).
- 4 Step bkwd on R, swinging forearms fwd (ct 1); lift on R, bringing L leg up (knee bent 45° and L ft in front), arms extending fwd and upward to take original pos (W-pos) (ct 2).
- 5 Step on L sdwd to L (ct 1); lift on L, swinging R leg (knee bent 45° and R ft in front) (ct 2).

Dance repeats from beginning

Final last count: Stamp on R and bring arms down in V pos (extend fwd and downward).

Presented by Sonia Dion and Cristian Florescu, © 2005