Joc de leagăne
(Romania)

Joc de leagăne (ZHONKH 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
FORM: 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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Pattern</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16 meas</td>
<td><strong>INTRODUCTION.</strong> No action. <strong>RAISE ARMS TO POSITION (SLOWLY) DURING LAST PART OF INTRO</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>I. MOVE IN LOD</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Facing, moving in LOD, touch ball of R ft beside L ft (ct 1); step fwd on R ft (ct 2).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Step fwd R,L (cts 1,2).</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Step fwd on R ft (ct 1); step on L beside R (ct 2); step fwd on R (ct 2).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-8</td>
<td>Repeat meas 1-4 with opp ftwk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>II. SWAYS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Facing ctr, step to R on R ft leaning to R, leaving L in place (cts 1-2). (Facing a little to right)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Shift wt onto L leaning to L, leaving R in place (cts 1-2). (Facing a little to left)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Shift wt onto R leaning to R (ct 1); step on L beside R (ct 2). (Facing a little to left)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Repeat meas 1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-8</td>
<td>Repeat meas 1-4 with opp ftwk and direction, but on ct 2 of meas 8, touch R ft beside L without leaning.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>III. MOVE BACKWARD AND FORWARD; MOVE IN LOD</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lower hands gradually to &quot;V&quot; pos during meas 1-2.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Step bkwd R,L (cts 1,2).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Take a small step bkwd on R, leaving L in place (ct 1); shift wt fwd onto L (ct 2); shift wt bkwd onto R (ct 2). This little rocking motion is soft and subtle.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-4</td>
<td>Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk and direction, raising hands to orig pos.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Facing and moving in LOD, step fwd R,L (cts 1,2); close R to L, taking wt (ct 8).

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

Step fwd L,R (cts 1,2); close L to R, taking wt (ct 8).

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

Note: Move 5-8 could be read as: Walk, 2 step, walk; walk, 3 step, walk.

IV. QUICK STEPS; WALK

1. Moving in LOD, take 3 small steps R,L,R (cts 1,2,3); light stamp on L beside R, while turning to face R LOD.

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

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

5-8. Moving in LOD and lowering hands to "Y" 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 cinz m-o leganta
Numai de dor mi-o cintat
Mi-o cintat de dor si-o plins
Dorul de mine s-o prins
De cinz port dor la inima
Nu mai am nici o hodina
Nici la prinz si nici la cina
Cite doruri rel-e-s grele
Tate-s pa bratele mele
Altui moare de batrin
Nu sti dorul de ce-i bun
Dar eu stiu ca lam-purtat
De cinz mana mi-o cintat
Ai la la la la la etc.

When my mother was rocking me
She was singing of longing
She was singing of longing and I cried
I've been caught by longing
Since my heart is longing
I have no repose
Neither at noon or at evening
How many longings? All are deep and bad
All are in my arms
One dies being old
Not knowing what's the good of longing
But I know I've carried it
Since my mother sang

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Note: This dance was originally taught by Theodor Vasilescu in Romania. Nick Hiterink learned it from Vasilescu in the US. When Vasilescu came to the US he said Hiterink's version was all wrong. He 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 and thereby reduce the confusion.