

Purtată de pe Mureș Romania (Transylvania)

Purtată de pe Mureș (poor-TAH-tuh deh peh MOO-resh) was introduced at the 2007 Stockton Folk Dance Camp by Cristian Florescu and Sonia Dion. Along with De-a-Lungu of the same family it is the oldest couple dance from Transylvania, with traces back to the seventeenth century, when these likely descended from La Polonaise. Generally, couple dances are thought to have begun spreading across Central and Northern Europe during the sixteenth century. They were delayed in reaching Valachia in southern Romania, however, by both the Carpathian Mountains and the Ottoman occupation.

Initially Purtată was a procession associated with wedding ceremonies to introduce solemnly the participants and wedding guests, to specify who would dance with whom (especially among the singles) and to encourage all to show off their finery. Eventually Transylvania's repertoire was enriched by many locally important couple dances. These are danced in a precise order, in keeping with local traditions. However, either Purtată or De-a-Lungu continues to be the opening dance at all festivities in the region.

Music: Sonia Dion & Cristian Florescu Romanian Realm Vol 3, Band 7 4/4 meter
Sonia Dion & Cristian Florescu, 60th Stockton Folk Dance Camp, Band 4

Formation: Couples in a circle face LOD, M inside, each turned slightly twd ptr. Inside hands are joined up in W-pos. WR hand is down at side, ML hand is fwd and up, with optional finger snapping.

Styling: Proud, elegant and "late" on the music.

Steps: Description of footwork is for M; W footwork is opposite on every count.

Measure	4/4 meter	PATTERN
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16 INTRODUCTION (no action). This 4/4 music is faster than that of the dance.

I. BASIC AND WOMAN TURNS ONCE

1. Step L slightly fwd (ct 1); touch ball of R beside L (ct 2); step R slightly back (ct 3); touch ball of L beside R (ct 4). Inside arms move slightly fwd and down (softly extended parallel to floor) on cts 1,2; bkwd and up on cts 3,4.
2. Step fwd L,R (cts 1,2); turning slightly twd ptr, step R,L,R in place (cts 3,&,4). Joined arms move slightly fwd, down (ct 1); up, back (ct 2), fwd, down (cts 3,&,4).
3. Step-touch R-L bkwd as joined arms swing down and back (cts 1,2); step-touch L-R fwd as arms swing fwd and up (cts 3,4).
4. M steps bkwd R,L, turning to face slightly twd ptr, as W turns once, almost in place, under raised joined hands (cts 1,2). M steps R,L,R in place, as ptrs face (cts 3,&,4).

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II BASIC AND COUPLE TURNS ONE-HALF TWICE

- 1 Turning slightly on ct 1 to face LOD, repeat FIG I, meas 1.
- 2 Step fwd L, R as joined arms move slightly fwd and down (cts 1,2); step sideways L,R,L away from ptr with joined arms slightly extended (cts 3,&4).
- 3 Step-touch R-L twd ptr as arms return to original position (cts 1,2); step-touch L-R away from ptr, extending arms cts (3-4).
- 4 Raising joined R hands above W head, M takes large steps R,L around W, turning 1/2 CW as she turns under 1/2 CCW (cts 1,2); facing RLOD, step R,L,R in place.
- 5-8 Facing RLOD, repeat meas 1-4 to end facing LOD in original position.

Sequence: Dance as written repeats for a total of 4 times.