

Codraneasca din Valea Chioarului

Romania (Chioar, Maramures)

Codraneasca din Valea Chioarului (koh-druh-NASS-kuh deen VAHL-yah chee-YAHR-loo-ee), or “Forest of the Chioar Valley,” is characterized by a challenging rhythmic syncopation. The final figure, which is different for men and women, provides an especially spectacular blending of rhythms - a pleasure to learn.

Chioar dance melodies are original in their musicalities and follow an old structure. Some of the instruments used are the *cetera*, *contra* (accompanying violin), *gorduna* (a small base), *doba* (drum) and *zongora* (a two-string lute).

- CD: *Sonia Dion and Christian Florescu Romanian Realm #2, Band 9*
Rhythm: meter = 8/8 = 1/8+1/8+1/8+1/8+1/8+1/8+1/8+1/8; counted here as 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8.
Formation: Closed circle of M and W solo dancers facing LOD.
Styling: Upper body erect.

Meas	8/8 meter	Pattern
8	<u>INTRODUCTION</u> (no action)	
	I. <u>PREUMBLATA</u> (PROMENADE)	
1	With arms raised in front, fingers straight up and palms fwd at face level, step fwd on L in LOD (ct 1); raising R leg fwd with bent knee at right angles (thigh is parallel to floor), slap R thigh with flat R palm (ct 2); repeat cts 1-2 with opp ftwk and hands (cts 3-4); step fwd on L (ct 5); clap hands together at face level (ct 6); clap again while stepping fwd on R (ct 7); clap hands again (ct 8).	
2-3	Repeat meas 1 twice.	
4	Jump fwd onto both ft together with knees slightly bent (ct 1); clap hands fwd twice (cts 2-3); repeat cts 1-3 (cts 4-6); repeat cts 1-2, clapping once (cts 7-8).	
5-7	Repeat meas 1-3.	
8	Turning CCW so that upper body faces slightly L of ctr, stamp L (ct 1); clap hands twice in front of L shoulder (cts 2-3); turning upper body to face slightly R of ctr, repeat cts 1-3 with opp ftwk and direction (cts 4-6); turning to face ctr, close L to R (ct 7); facing ctr, clap once in front (ct 8).	

II. VÂNTUL (WIND)

- 1 Turning hands down and out, while lowering and opening arms to place hands on lower back with palms out, turn slightly to the L and fall gently onto L ft with slightly bent knee, as R ft, with knee bent, is raised fwd with a slight push in front of L shin (ct 1); straighten supporting L knee and face ctr, as R ft moves to R (ct 2); step on R beside L (ct 3); step on L beside R (ct 4); keeping hands on back, repeat steps of cts 1-4 with opp ftwk and direction (cts 5-8).
- 2-3 Keeping hands on back and alternating ftwk and direction, repeat meas 1 twice.
- 4 Leap onto L in place, raising R ft slightly in front of L (ct 1); hold (ct 2); repeat ct 1 with opp ftwk (ct 3); leap onto L in place, raising R to side with heel turned out (ct 4); click R heel to L (ct 5); hold (ct 6); clap hands in front twice (cts 7-8).
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.

III. STAMPS (hands joined behind lower back)

- 1 Keeping L ft on floor and facing R of ctr, step on R in LOD (ct 1); drag L ft beside R (ct 2); continuing to move in LOD, step on L, R, L (cts 3-5); stamp on R, no wt (ct 6); step in LOD on R (ct 7); turning to face slightly L of ctr, stamp L, no wt, in RLOD (ct 8).
- 2 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 3 Repeat meas 1.
- 4 Repeat Fig. II, meas 4.
- 5-8 Beginning in RLOD, repeat meas 1-4 with opposite ftwk and direction.

IV. VÂNTUL VARIANTA (WIND VARIATION): W's SEQUENCE

- 1-8 Ftwk is the same as for Fig. II; clapping sequences are given below. Arm movement in clapping is away from chest, fwd and slightly down, similar to the breast stroke in swimming: C=clap; N=no clap
- 1 N,C,N,C,N,C,N,C.
- 2 N,C,N,C,N,C,C,C.
- 3 Repeat meas 2.
- 4 N,N,N,N,N,N,C,C
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.

IV. VÂNTUL VARIANTA (WIND VARIATION): M's SEQUENCE

The slapping hand is up in front, elbow bent 90°. The other is behind the back. The stance is proud, with body straight and tall during slapping.

- 1 Turning to face slightly L of ctr, step fwd on L (ct 1); lift on L while raising R leg in front, knee bent 90° (ct 2); slap outside of R heel with R hand (ct 3); touch ball of R ft in front, no wt (ct 4); repeat ct 2 (ct 5); slap R thigh with R hand (ct 6); step fwd on R (ct 7); lifting on R, turn to face ctr, while raising L leg fwd with knee bent 45° (ct 8).

- 2 Reversing arm positions, and turning to face slightly R of ctr, touch ball of L ft in front (ct 1); lift on R while raising L leg in front, knee bent 90° (ct 2); slap outside of L heel with L hand (ct 3); touch ball of L ft in front, no wt (ct 4); lifting on R, raise L leg fwd, knee bent 90° (ct 5); slap L thigh with L hand (ct 6); step fwd on L (ct 7); lift on L, raising R leg fwd, knee bent 45° , and turn to face ctr (ct 8).
- 3 Repeat meas 2 with opp ftwk and handwork.
- 4 Fall on both ft together in place (ct 1); slap R hand fwd on outside of R thigh and raise R leg fwd, knee bent 45° (ct 2); twisting lower R leg CCW, slap R hand backwards on outside of R heel (ct 3); touch ball of R ft fwd, no wt (ct 4); repeat cts 2-3 (cts 5-6); step slightly fwd on R (cts 7-8).
- 5 Facing slightly to R of ctr (L hand fwd), touch ball of L ft fwd, no wt (ct 1); raise L ft in front (ct 2); slap L hand on outside of L heel (ct 3); touch ball of L fwd, no wt (ct 4); repeat meas 1, cts 5-8 with opp ftwk and handwork.
- 6-7 Repeat meas 2-3 with opp ftwk and handwork.
- 8 Facing slightly L of ctr, touch ball of R ft fwd, no wt (ct 1); raising R leg in front, knee bent 45° , slap outside of R thigh fwd with R hand (ct 2); slap outside of R heel backwards with R hand (ct 3); touch ball of R ft fwd, no wt (ct 4); repeat meas 4, cts 5-8.

Sequence: Figs. I, II, III, IV (M+W); then repeat all.