

Joc de leagăne

(Romania)

Joc de leagăne (ZHOK deh Leh-AH-gah-neh) is a women's dance honoring the village midwife on her name day. This dance was reconstructed by Theodor Vasilescu which comes from the village of Dragomirești in the Maramureș region of northern Romania. It has been presented by many other teachers in camps and workshops in the United States with variations of steps and styling. In honor of Mr. Vasilescu's dedication to the culture of Romania, we present his version, which can be seen danced by Theodor and Lia, Theodor's wife, in the video noted below.

Music: 2/4 meter Search YouTube for "Dance of the Cradle"

Video: A search on YouTube for "Demonstration of Joc de Leagane dance Vasilescu" should result in the correct video.

Formation: Open circle of women facing CCW. Begin with L hand resting palm up on own L shoulder (elbows down) and R hand holding L hand of person in front. Leader may extend R arm forward or place R hand on R hip.

Steps & Styling: The dance is quiet, gentle, smooth, feminine. It does not have exaggerated hip movements, though at times the whole body sways a bit.

Meas	2/4 meter	PATTERN
32		INTRODUCTION. (Dancers may wait or begin immediately.)
		I. FACING AND MOVING CCW.
1		Touch ball of R next to L (ct 1); step R fwd (ct 2).
2		Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk.
3		Step R fwd (ct 1); step L fwd (ct 2).
4		Step R fwd (ct 1); step L beside R (ct &); step R fwd (ct 2).
5-8		Repeat meas 1-4 in same direction with opp ftwk.
		II. FACING CENTER, MOVING SIDE TO SIDE (CRADLE).
		Face ctr and bring hands up to W-pos and slightly fwd.
1		Step R to R while turning slightly L (ct 1); touch ball of L next to R (ct 2).
2		Repeat meas 1 with opp direction and ftwk.
3		Step R to R while turning slightly L (ct 1); step L next to R (ct 2).
4		Step R to R while turning slightly L (ct 1); touch ball of L next to R (ct 2).
5-8		Repeat meas 1-4 with opp direction and ftwk.
		III. FACING CENTER, MOVING BACKWARD AND FORWARD.
		Gradually bring arms down and back as you move bkwd in meas 1-2; then gradually fwd and up to a straight arm W-pos with hands higher than head as you move fwd in meas 3-4.
1		Step R bkwd (ct 1); step L bkwd (ct 2).
2		Step R bkwd (ct 1); step L next to R (ct &); step R beside or slightly behind L (ct 2) and look down.

Joc de leagăne – continued

3-4 Repeat meas 1-4 moving twd ctr with opp ftwk and bringing hands fwd and straight up while looking up.

IV. FACING AND MOVING RIGHT, HANDS HIGH.

Hands remain high overhead.

1 Step R fwd in LOD (ct 1); step L fwd (ct 2); step R beside L (ct &).

2 Step L fwd (ct 1); step R fwd (ct 2).

3 Step L fwd (ct 1); step R beside L (ct &); step L fwd (ct 2).

4 Step R fwd (ct 1); step L fwd (ct 2).

V. MOVING RIGHT, LEFT, RIGHT.

Bring joined hands down to V-pos

1 Facing ctr, step R to R (ct 1); step L behind R (ct &); step R to R turning slightly L to face CW (ct 2); soft stamp on L (ct &).

2 Facing L, step L (ct 1); step R (ct 2).

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

VI. FACING AND MOVING CCW.

1 Step R fwd, with arms in V-pos swinging slightly twd R (ct 1); step L fwd with arms in V-pos swinging slightly twd L (ct 2).

2 Repeat meas 1.

3 Bringing hands up to starting pos (L hand palm up on own shoulder, R hand on palm of next dancer) on ct 1, step R (ct 1); step L (ct &); step R (ct 2).

4 Step L (ct 1); step R (ct &); step L (ct 2).

Sequence: Repeat dance as noted above until the music ends.

Lyrics and translation (all lines are sung twice)

Mama când m-o legănat
Numai de dor mi-o cântat

When my mother rocked me
She sang to me only of longing.

Mi-o cântat de dor si-o plâns
Dorul de mine s-o prins

She sang of longing, and she cried.
The longing clung to me.

De când port dor la inima
Nu mai am nici o hodina nici la prânz si nici la cima

Ever since then I carry longing in my heart,
I have no respite – not at lunchtime and not at dinnertime.

Câte dorurile-s grele
Toate-s pe brațele mele

As heavy as the longings are,
They are all weighing on my arms.

Altul moare de bătrân
Nu știe dorul de ce-i bun

Someone else might die of old age,
Not knowing the use of longing.

Dar eu știu ca l-am purtat
De când mama mi-o cântat

But I know I've carried it
Ever since my mother sang to me.