

# 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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

## Hora de la Soroca—continued

Song for Hora de la Soroca  
(Basarabia)

Hi bun seara dragii mei, dai bun seara dragii mei,  
Gospodari i buni flci, dai gospodari i buni flci,  
Am venit cu voie bun, am venit cu voie bun  
S petrecem împreun, s petrecem împreun.

Aa-i jocul din btrâni, aa-i jocul din btrâni  
Ca gardu din mrcini, ca gardu din mrcini,  
Aa-i jocul din monegi, aa-i jocul din monegi  
Ca gardu din prepelegi, ca gardu din prepelegi

Aa juca mama me, dar aa juca mama me,  
Când era cu mine gre, dar când era cu mine gre  
Aa juca tata meu, aa juca tata meu  
Când era tânăr flcu, când era tânăr flcu.

Hop uuc de geama duc, hop uuc de geama duc  
Ca vasul la tirbutuc, ca vasul la tirbutuc.  
Hop uuc de geama trag, hop uuc de geama trag,  
Ca vasu la ticarag ca vasul la ticarag.

i de cântat va mai cânta, da de cântat va mai cânta,  
Nitelnem co-însra, da nitelnem co-însra  
i ni drumul c-am cotit i ni drumul c-am cotit,  
Nitelnem de prvlit, nitelnem de prvlit.

Sntate ne ducem, sntate ne ducem,  
Bucucluri nu v lsm, bucucluri nu v lsm.

## Hora de la Soroca (Translation of song)

Good evening, my friends,\*  
Gracious host and good young men,  
I have gladly come,  
To rejoice with you.

Olden dances are like that,  
Like a hedge of nettles,  
Olden dances are like that  
Like a fence of stumps.

That's how my mother danced  
When she was carrying me,  
That's how my father danced  
When he was young and handsome.

*(This verse is difficult to translate;  
the words come from a very specific dialect.)*

As for singing, I can still sing  
Only a little, for night is falling,  
And the road is winding  
And a bit rough.

Cheers! We're leaving, but  
We leave no trouble behind.

---

\*Every line in the song is sung twice.

Sonia Dion & Cristian Florescu 2005

## Hora de la Soroca—continued

Song for Hora de la Soroca  
(Basarabia)

Hăi bună seara dragii mei, dai bună seara dragii mei,  
Gospodari și buni flăcăi, dai gospodari și buni flăcăi,  
Am venit cu voie bună, am venit cu voie bună  
Să petrecem împreună, să petrecem împreună.

Așa-i jocul din bătrâni, așa-i jocul din bătrâni  
Ca gardu din mărăcini, ca gardu din mărăcini,  
Așa-i jocul din moșnegi, așa-i jocul din moșnegi  
Ca gardu din prepelegi, ca gardu din prepelegi

Așa juca mama me, dar așa juca mama me,  
Când era cu mine gre, dar când era cu mine gre  
Așa juca tata meu, așa juca tata meu  
Când era tânăr flăcău, când era tânăr flăcău.

Hop țuțuc de geama duc, hop țuțuc de geama duc  
Ca vasul la tirbutuc, ca vasul la tirbutuc.  
Hop țuțuc de geama trag, hop țuțuc de geama trag,  
Ca vasu la ticarag ca vasul la ticarag.

Și de cântat va mai cânta, da de cântat va mai cânta,  
Nitelnem co-însăra, da nitelnem co-însăra  
Și ni drumul c-am cotit și ni drumul c-am cotit,  
Nitelnem de prăvălit, nitelnem de prăvălit.

Sănătate ne ducem, sănătate ne ducem,  
Bucucluri nu vă lăsăm, bucucluri nu vă lăsăm.

## Hora de la Soroca (Translation of song)

Good evening, my friends,\*  
Gracious host and good young men,  
I have gladly come,  
To rejoice with you.

Olden dances are like that,  
Like a hedge of nettles,  
Olden dances are like that  
Like a fence of stumps.

That's how my mother danced  
When she was carrying me,  
That's how my father danced  
When he was young and handsome.

*(This verse is difficult to translate;  
the words come from a very specific dialect.)*

As for singing, I can still sing  
Only a little, for night is falling,  
And the road is winding  
And a bit rough.

Cheers! We're leaving, but  
We leave no trouble behind.

---

\*Every line in the song is sung twice.

Sonia Dion & Cristian Florescu 2005