

## Hora lui Șerban

(Banat, Romania)

The most popular and widespread dances in Romania are known as Hore (plural of Hora). They are found everywhere in the country, although they take on different forms. Sometimes they're danced only by men, only by women, or by both; sometimes the circle moves clockwise, sometimes counter-clockwise; and so on.

The Hore from Banat are danced in an open circle and are led by the first dancer. The leader decides and signals when to change sequences.

Romanians are jovial and enjoy a good joke. They love to party and will find many pretexts to celebrate, to get together with friends and have a good meal, drink, sing and, it goes without saying, dance. At present, wedding celebrations lasting more than three days are unfortunately almost a thing of the past (except in a few villages where everyone pitches in to make the event a memorable one), and the opportunities to invite a band to play at a festivity are becoming rare. However, music is still ever-present in the more economical form of hiring a disc jockey for the night. Contemporary popular musicians and singers are heavily influenced by western countries and electronic instruments abound. Thus rhythms and arrangements have taken on a more modern air, although many have retained the flavor and sound of traditional Romanian music. Now it's not unusual to see Romanians spontaneously dance their traditional steps to the music of the day. Hora lui Șerban is an excellent example of this new form of urban folklore.

Pronunciation: HOH-rah loo-ee CHEHR-bahn

Music: *Sonia Dion & Cristian Florescu, Special Edition, Band 8* or *Sonia Dion & Cristian Florescu Romanian Realm Vol. 4, Band 4.* 2/4 meter

Formation: Open mixed circle, dancers facing center with hands in W-pos.

Steps & Styling: Throughout the dance, the arms keep time with a vertical movement where the accent is up on the beat. The arms are in W-pos but wider and in front of the body, with the forearms in a diagonal position (hands higher than elbows). The dance is a freestyle Hora with three patterns done at the whim of the leader. The figures aren't necessarily done in the order written below, nor are they always alternated.

### Meas

### Pattern

INTRODUCTION. Knees do bouncing vertical movement accenting the "up" movement (cts 1-24). Arms follow the same "up" accent. The leader signals when to start.

#### I. WALK 3 STEPS AND LIFT

- 1 Facing slightly to R, step on R to R and moving LOD (ct 1); step on L to R (ct 2).
- 2 Step on R to R (ct 1); lift L leg 45° in front with knee slightly bent and turn to face ctr (ct 2).
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.

Hora lui Șerban—continued

II. WALKING IN AND OUT

- 1 Facing center, step fwd on R (ct 1); step fwd on L (ct 2).
- 2 Step fwd on R (ct 1); lift L leg 45° in front knee slightly bent (ct 2).
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk and direction (moving bkwd).
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.

II. TRIPLETS

- 1 Facing slightly to R, do 1 two-step starting with R ft facing and moving LOD (cts 1-2).
- 2 Do 1 two-step starting with L ft facing and moving LOD (cts 1-2).
- 3 Step on R to R (ct 1); step on L to R (ct 2).
- 4 Step on R to R (ct 1); lift L 45° in front knee slightly bent (ct 2) and turn to end facing ctr
- 5-8 Repeat measures 1-4 with opp ftwk and direction (moving RLOD).

SEQUENCE: The three figures are done according to the whim of the leader. The figures are not necessarily done in the above-mentioned order, nor are they always alternated.

Presented by Sonia Dion & Cristian Florescu

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## Lyrics for *Hora lui Șerban*

**VERSE 1:**

**Ce afara mi-e destinul, vecinii imi spun străinul  
Se uită la min' ciudat, parcă sunt din cer picat  
Am colindat occidentul, căci mă pândeia falimentul  
Am stat sluga la străini, ca o pradă între câini**

My destiny lies abroad; my neighbours call me Foreigner  
They look at me puzzled, as though I fell out of the sky.  
I have been all over the West, for I was just about broke,  
I was a slave to the others, like bait for a dog.

**CHORUS:**

**Ei credeau că sunt pârlit din România venit  
Nu știau c'acas' la mine stau decât ei mult mai bine**

The others thought I was a poor wretch from Romania  
They didn't know that at home I lived better than they did.

**VERSE 2:**

**Nici n-am trecut granița, că-mi plânge inima  
Nu știi doamne cum o fi, când înapoi oi veni  
Am colindat occidentul, căci mă pândeia falimentul  
Am stat sluga la străini, ca o pradă între câini**

When I cross the border, my heart weeps  
Oh God, I don't know what it will be like when I return.  
I have been all over the West, for I was just about broke,  
I was a slave to the others, like bait for a dog.

**CHORUS:****VERSE 3:**

**Sânge de Român să ai Dumnezeu îți dă cât ai  
Te ajută nu te lasă pe tine și-ai tăi de-acasă  
Am colindat occidentul, căci mă pândeia falimentul  
Am stat sluga la străini, ca o pradă între câini**

With Romanian blood in you, God gives you what you need  
He won't let you down, He will help you and your family.  
I have been all over the West, for I was just about broke,  
I was a slave to the others, like bait for a dog.

**CHORUS:****VERSE 4:**

**Dedic aceasta melodie pentru toți Români  
Plecați peste hotare**

I dedicate this melody to all Romanians  
Who left for all parts of the world.

**CHORUS:**