

Corlu Aromân

From Dobrogea, Romania

Presented by Sonia Dion and Cristian Florescu

Approximately 24,000 people of Macedonian origin live in Romania, mainly in the region of Dobrogea, in the southeastern part of the country, along the Black Sea and the Danube. They are called Aromanians or Macedo-Romanians (*Machedoni*).

Aromanian dances are done in a broken circle and called *Corlu* (same meaning as *Hora*). The *Corlu* is led ('*tras*', pulled along) by certain people depending on the event. In the course of the dance, the leader (*caplu*) will give his place up to others.

For example, at a wedding (*arada*), the etiquette calls for *socrul mare* (the groom's father), *naşul* (the godfather), *socrul mic* (the bride's father), their families and the newlyweds to lead part of the dance in turn, following their rank within the family hierarchy. In fact, any participant (even a child) may have the honour of leading the dance briefly if they are expressly asked to do so. The gesture symbolizes solidarity among families and the community.

The leader makes a show of his virtuosity through jumps, turns, squats, stamps, etc., thereby demonstrating and asserting his leadership in the community.

At the same time, the *coada* (the last people in the line or "tail") is just as active and dynamic. These dancers will swing the line in to face the dancers at the beginning of the line. If a very large number of dancers participate, the *Corlu* will take the shape of a spiral.

The dancers' manner is sober. The movement into the semi-circle is smooth and the sequence of steps is repeated until the end of the dance.

Unlike in Romanian *horas*, no whistling or shouts are ever heard during a *Corlu*.

Formation: open mixed circle

Position: facing center, hands joined up in W position but hands slightly forward and wider

Pronunciation: KOHR-loo ah-ROH-meun

Music: *Sonia Dion & Cristian Florescu Romanian Realm Vol. 8, Band 3*

Style: women dance modestly, men with more amplitude (raising high leg)

Meter: 4/4

Description of *Corlu Aromân*

Meas. Count

Introduction

1-8 No action or bouncing knees down and up.

Figure 1 (Instrumental)

1	1	Step swd on R to the right, body facing slightly to the right
	2	Cross L in front of R
	3	Step swd on R to the right
	4	Lift on R heel while raising L ft (knee bent 45°) in front, body facing center

Meter: 4/4 Description of *Corlu Aromân* (continued)

Meas. Count **Figure 1** (continued)

- 2** 1 Cross L in back of R
 2 Step swd on R to the right
 3 Cross L in front of R, body facing slightly to the right
 4 Lift on L heel while raising slightly R ft near L leg
- 3** 1 Step on R to the right
 2 Cross L in front of R
 3 Step on R in place, body facing center
 4 Lift on R heel while raising L ft (knee bent 45°) in front
- 4** 1 Step swd on L to the left
 2 Cross R in front of L, body facing slightly to the left
 3 Step on L in place, body facing center
 4 Lift on L heel while raising R ft (knee bent 45°) in front
- 5-8** Repeat measures **1-4**

Figure 2 (Singing)

- 1** 1&2 Step on R to the right, body diag. to the right
 3&4 Step on L crossing in front of R
- 2** 1&2 Step swd on R to the right, body facing center
 3&4 Raise L ft in front, knee bent 90° (for men)
- 3** 1&2 Large step swd on L to the left
 3&4 With R leg straight, touch R toes diag. to the left
- 4** 1&2 With R leg straight, touch R toes diag. to the right
 3 Brush R ft (knee bent 45°) in front of L leg near L knee
 4 Extend R leg diag. to the right
- 5-12** Repeat measures **1-4**, two more times (3 in total).
- 13-14** Repeat measures **1-2**
- 15** 1&2 Large step swd on L to the left
 3 Brush R ft (knee bent 45°) in front of L leg near L knee
 4 Extend R leg diag. to the right

Final pattern:

(F1 + F2) x 4 + F1.