

ANA LUGOJANA (Hațegana)

Romania (Banat)

Ana Lugojana (AH-nah loo-goh-ZHAH-nah, "Anna from Lugoj") is a popular song whose tune is one of many used to accompany the *Hațegana* (hah-tzeh-GAH-nah), a well known Romanian couple dance in the regions of Banat and Transylvania. In Romania the *Hațegana* is found in a number of regional variants, the most complex having four figures: a "promenade", a woman's twirl, a couple-turning figure and a change-partner figure.

The simpler version given here is one I learned and danced during the late 1930's and the 1940's in my home town of St. Paul, Minnesota, among Romanian immigrants from Banat. At weddings, church holidays, fund-raisers and other dance events at the small hall behind St. Mary's Romanian Orthodox Church, *Ana Lugojana* was played and danced once or twice in a given afternoon or evening, along with a half-dozen other Romanian circle, contra and couple dances. A local combo of first-generation part-time musicians furnished the music on violin, clarinet, drums and, occasionally, saxophone.

Recording: Ethnic Arts EA 4501, *Ana Lugojana*

Meter: 2/4

Formation: Couples anywhere on the dance floor. See below for positions and handholds.

BASIC STEP - "Step-close-apart-chug"

One basic step pattern is used throughout the dance. Footwork is identical for M and W. The entire pattern is done *flat-footed*, with weight *back on the heels* rather than on the forward portion of the foot. Otherwise, it has some of the feel of the UP-down *rida* some folk dancers are familiar with from Hungarian dances.

Meas Basic Step L

- 1 ("step-close"): With L knee straight, step Lft sideward L (1); bending both knees slightly, close Rft beside Lft, taking weight on Rft (2).
- 2 ("apart-chug"): Straightening knees, again step Lft sideward L, momentarily sharing weight on *both* feet in this "apart" position (1); bending both knees, slide Lft "home" beside Rft with a chug, shifting full weight onto Lft with accent (sometimes audible) and raising Rft low off floor beside Lft (2).

Basic Step R

- 3-4 Reverse footwork and direction of movements of meas 1-2.

MEAS

ACTION

FIGURE 1 - Side promenade L and R

Position: Partners side by side, W on M's R, inside hands joined with elbows bent. W's outside hand either on hip (fingers forward) or down at side naturally. M's outside hand on hip or raised out to side at head level (M occasionally snaps fingers or gestures with outstretched

(continued)

FIGURE 1 (continued)

palm to give emphasis to a movement).

1-2 In this "promenade" position, do Basic Step L.

3-4 Basic Step R.

Couple continues promenading alternately L and R for as long as M wishes. Though described above as strictly sideward, the "promenade" can actually be done moving very slightly forward as well; however, the couple does not stray very far from their original place on the floor.

FIGURE 2 - Woman's twirl

This is actually a variation of the "promenade" described above. Both M and W do the same steps as in Fig. 1 but, if and when the M wishes, he may raise their joined hands and twirl the W (counterclockwise if they are promenading L, clockwise if they are promenading R).

The W's twirl is one full turn using the footwork of one Basic Step (beginning Lft for CCW twirl, Rft for CW twirl). She does the turn in 2 steps equivalent to the "step-close" of a Basic Step, and does the "apart-chug" after she has completed the turn and is again side-by-side with partner.

FIGURE 3 - Couple turns

Position: Partners face, W's hands on M's shoulders; M's hands may be at W's shoulder blades or he may place his R hand at her waist and his L hand at her R elbow or upper arm.

The couple turns are done alternately CW and CCW, using various combinations of the movements of the Basic Step. For convenience in learning, three arbitrary couple turns are described here: "singles", "doubles" and "double doubles".

"Singles"

1-4 In one of the turn positions described above, partners face just slightly to L of direct face-to-face position, and turn as a couple CW using the movements of one Basic Step L; then reverse (if M is using waist-elbow hold with W, he at this point switches L hand to her waist and R hand to her L elbow or upper arm), turning CCW using the movements of one Basic Step R.

"Doubles"

1-8 Couple turns CW using the equivalent of *three* "step-closes" and *one* "apart-chug" of a Basic Step L; then reverse and do the equivalent of three "step-closes" and one "apart-chug" of a Basic Step R.

"Double doubles"

1-16 Couple turns CW with the equivalent of *seven* "step-closes" and *one* "apart-chug" of a Basic Step L; then reverse and do the equivalent of seven "step-closes" and one "apart-chug" of a Basic Step R.

Presented by Dick Crum