

**Călușarii**  
*Kah-Too-sha-ree*  
Oltenia, Southwest Romania

**Source:** This choreography is by Martin Koenig as he saw the dance steps here arranged, being performed by different villages in the province of Oltenia. Additional notes by Tom Deering who learned a number of steps from Valeriu Buciu, director of Ensemble Maramureșul.

**Formation:** Men dancing individually in a semi circle (sometimes circle, sometimes line) facing LOD (CCW), holding a stick in R hand. The stick is about 3/4" to 1" in diameter, about 38" long. Traditionally there were always an odd number of men (5, 7 or 9), the leader of whom is called the Vataf. The costume is elaborate and festive, based on white pants and shirt (reminiscent of the English Morris dance costume). Leggings usually have bells and the shoes or boots often have spurs with bells. The effect is that each step and click is accompanied by a definite ringing rhythm. The steps are fluid and continuous and become very energetic as the music speeds up.

**Recording:** Balkan-Arts LP "Cintec Și Jocuri Populare Romînesti" BA-6H - 2/4 meter

**Note:** "The Căluș is one of the oldest rituals in traditional Romanian culture." (Anca Giurchescu). The ritual itself was originally up to two weeks long and took place during Whitsuntide (in early summer). The dance is only part of the ritual and is characterized by many virtuosic steps performed at blinding speed. For more information on other aspects of the ritual see these references:

- "Căluș: symbolic transformation in Romanian ritual" by Gail Kligman, University of Chicago Press, 1981.
- "Căluș" by Anca Giurchescu, Living Traditions Magazine, 1974.

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**Meas Ct The Dance**

**Figure 1 - walk 6 + "and Stamp and Stamp" + "Both Click and Stamp"**

1-6 Facing moving CCW, take **12 deliberate striding steps** beginning with R, with a marked accent on the first step.

7     1     **Hop** on L in place  
      &     **Stamp** R next to L, no weight  
      2     **Leap** onto R  
      &     **Stamp** L next to R, no weight

8     1     Jump onto **Both** with feet slightly apart  
      &     Jump up **Clicking** feet together directly under body  
      2     Land on **Left** foot  
      &     **Stamp** L next to R, no weight

9-32 **REPEAT** Figure 1 three more times  
*Variation: Close both feet together at the end of measure 8*

**Figure 2 - walk 4 + "and Stamp and Stamp" + "Both Click and Stamp" (3x)**

1-4 Repeat Figure 1 meas 1-4 (**8 striding steps**)  
5 Repeat Figure 1 meas 7 ("and Stamp and Stamp")  
6-8 Repeat Figure 1 meas 8 three times ("Both Click and Stamp")  
9-32 **REPEAT** Figure 2 three more times  
*Variation: Turn 180 deg in place in meas 6 & 7 (two turns ending facing LOD)*

**Figure 3 - "and Heel Step" (4x) +  
 "& Click Step Click Step Stamp Step" (2x)  
 (Stick over R Shoulder)**

- 1 1 Hop on L extending R up and slightly out, R knee bent and turned slightly in  
 & Touch R heel forward, no weight  
 2 Slight Leap forward onto R foot  
 2 REPEAT Meas 1 with opposite footwork  
 3-4 REPEAT Meas 1-2  
 (Stick over shoulder or stick down with tip on floor, R hand over upper end)
- 5 1 Turning to face center, Hop on L extending R leg out to R  
 & Click R to L, displacing L foot slightly to L  
 2 Step L to L  
 & Click R to L, displacing L foot slightly to L  
 6 1 Step L to L  
 & Stamp L next to R, no weight  
 2 Accented Step forward on R  
 7-8 Facing LOD, REPEAT Meas 5-6 with opposite footwork and direction moving away from center  
 9-16 REPEAT Figure 3

**Figure 4 - "and Step, Close Step and Close" in and out (4x)  
 (Stick down with tip on floor, R hand over upper end)**

- 1 1 Facing diagonally left of center, Hop on L in place  
 & Accented Step sideward R on R  
 2 Hold  
 & Close L to R with click  
 2 1 Accented Step sideward R on R  
 & Turning 1/4 CW to face diagonally R of center, Step L to L  
 2 Close R to L with click  
 3-4 REPEAT meas 1-2, but starting facing diagonally R of center and turning 1/4 CCW to finish facing diagonally L of center  
 5-16 REPEAT Figure 4 three more times

**Figure 5 - Sirba "Step Close Step Close Right Left Close" (8x)  
 (Stick down with tip on floor, R hand over upper end)**

- 1 1 Facing Center, Slight Leap to R on R extending L to L to begin CW circling motion  
 & Hop on R clicking L to R  
 2 Slight Leap to L on L extending R to R to begin CCW circling motion  
 & Hop on L clicking R to L  
 2 1 Leap to R on R  
 & Leap to L on L  
 2 Close R to L with click  
 3-16 REPEAT Figure 5 seven more times

**Figure 6 - Sirba sus**

*"Step Close Step Close Both Click Left Close" +  
 "Step Close Step Close Right Left Close" - (4x)  
 (Stick down with tip on floor, R hand over upper end)*

- 1 REPEAT Meas 1 Figure 5 ("R Close L Close")  
 2 1 Jump onto Both, feet apart  
 & Jump up Clicking both feet together  
 2 Land on Left, extending R to R to begin CCW circling motion (knee bent)  
 & Hop on L Clicking R to L  
 3-4 REPEAT Figure 5 meas 1-2 ("R Close L Close, R L Close")  
 5-16 REPEAT Figure 6 three more times

Music speeds up

**Figure 7**

"Hop Step - Hop 1 2 3, Hop Step - Hop 1 2 3 (forward)"  
 "Hop Slap... R L R Scuff, L R Both Click L & Click"  
 "Hop Step - Hop 1 2 3, Hop Step - Hop 1 2 3 (back)"  
 (Stick held horizontally in both hands)

1	1	Moving forward, <b>Hop</b> on L
	&	Accented <b>Step</b> forward on R
	2	Hold
	&	<b>Hop</b> on R
2	1	<b>Step</b> forward on L
	&	<b>Step</b> on R directly behind L
	2	<b>Step</b> forward on L
	&	
3-4		<b>REPEAT</b> meas 1-2
5	1	<b>Hop</b> on L
	&	<b>Slap</b> R forward with straight leg
	2	Hold
6	1	<b>Step</b> on R to R
	&	<b>Step</b> on L behind R
	2	<b>Step</b> on R to R
	&	<b>Stamp</b> L next to R (a slight scuff with L forward)
7	1	<b>Step</b> on L to L
	&	<b>Step</b> R behind L
	2	<b>Step</b> onto L leaving R in place
	&	Jump up <b>Clicking</b> both feet together directly below body
8	1	Land on <b>Left</b> extending R to R to begin CCW circling motion
	&	Continue circling motion
	2	<b>Click</b> R to L (R is moving slightly back in preparation for next movement)
9-12		<b>REPEAT</b> Meas 1-4 moving backwards to starting position ( <b>Hop R - Hop L R L</b> 2x)
13-36		<b>REPEAT</b> Figure 7 two more times
37-47		<b>REPEAT</b> Meas 1-11
48	1	Leap to Left in place
	2	<b>Stamp</b> R forward, no weight

Dance Description by Tom Deering after notes by Ruth Miller and Marcel vinkur for Martin Koenig.