



Leslie A. Macdonnell Presents

The
RUMANIAN
National Dance Company
and Orchestra

"Ciocirlia"

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The Rumanian National Dance Company & Orchestra

*Cu drag
Mina*

PETRE NASTOVICI *Director* VICTOR PREDESCU *Conductor*

Ballet Master

Gheorghe Popescu-Judet

Artistic Director

Viorel Dobos

Vocal Soloists

Simion Pop and Angela Moldovan

Dance Soloists

Magda Popescu Elena Tircolea Vasile Paraschivescu Ion Ilie Marin Elecu Gheorghe Ilie

Violinist

Aurel Romcescu

Pan Pipes

Stanciu Simion

Cymbalom (Dulcimer)

Tony Iordache Alecu Ilie

Taragot (Clarinet)

Ion Milu

Fluier and Caval (Shepherd's Flute and Long Pipe)

Dumitru Zamfira

U.K. presentation produced by

PHILIP HINDIN





W. H. H.
1967

*Unui domisroy
foarte reuizibile
cu mult drag
E. T. H.*

FOUNDED AFTER WORLD WAR II this Dance Company has performed before hundreds of thousands of people in Eastern Europe, U.S.A., and throughout Asia, as well as in nearly every town and village of its native land.

The popularity of this Company is such, that it has become the goal of thousands of young artistes to become a member of this organisation, but it is a difficult task.

To be certain of choosing the best talent available, the Directors hold three competitions annually in various parts of the country. These attract from eight hundred to a thousand applicants all striving for the two or three positions which become available each year within the Company.

Those who pass these competitions may be sent to one of the ballet schools for further study and then the applicant is given a one-year contract for a trial period before full acceptance.

The Company works the year round and all members receive twenty-four working days vacation each year, extra days are added to those artistes who have received government citations or decorations.

The Rumanian National Dance Company and Orchestra boasts its own headquarters complete with a theatre in Bucharest, a resident and touring Company, its own workshops, and close ties with the ballet schools of Bucharest and Cluj.

After an artiste reaches the age of forty, he may retire with a generous pension.





The authenticity of the dances and costumes is supported by, and stems from the archives in Bucharest which hold a treasure of art and culture. At last count there were more than 60,000 recordings, 20,000 manuscripts which comprise 1,125 fairy tales, 600 dances and about 23,000 songs. These have been an inexhaustible source of inspiration for artistes and musicians.

Delving into the artistic and cultural background of a country is a long and difficult task and an Institute was started by the work of D. G. Kiriac a musician who travelled at his own expense through the regions of Rumania and recorded on early discs the music that seemed to him the most representative. Later the composer Bela Bartok became interested and aided the work.

With such material available it is possible for the company to re-create material which is completely authentic.

The Institute also has an enormous colour-photograph collection of costumes worn in all of the various regions of Rumania.

It would be difficult to select any one dance for comment in this varied exciting programme, but mention must be made of the Calusari, a dance of tempo and fire which has won innumerable first prizes at International Dance Festivals, nor can one omit the excitement and colour of the Transylvanian Wedding Dance which concludes the programme.



The Rumanian National Dance Company & Orchestra

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● PART I

1. PAINTINGS FROM THE NATIONAL GALLERY

Choreographic scenario on George Enescu's music, "The First Rumanian Rhapsody."

Choreography: Floria Capsali Dumitrescu.
Soloists: Elena Tircolea and Alecu Marin.

Created to George Enescu's popular "First Rumanian Rhapsody," this scene depicts the coming to life of some renowned Rumanian Paintings by Theodor Aman and Nicolae Grigorescu, currently exhibited in the Bucharest National Gallery. In the still of the night the portraits become animated until disturbed by the return of the Caretaker.
A delightful fantasy of colour and vivacity.

2. THE STORMY HORA — Orchestral Ensemble

Composer: Grigoras Dinicu.

A melodious piece, played at an amazing tempo, a storm of sounds suggesting the fury of a tempest.

3. BRIUL DANCE

A dance from the Banat region.

Soloist on Taragot: Ion Milu.

The Briul is a sash. The dance emanates from Walachia which is in the part of the country bordered by the Southern Carpathians and the Danube.

The extremely fast tempos call for dancers of great vigour.

The Taragot is a clarinet-type instrument with a special timbre virtually unique in sound.

4. AT THE ROOTS OF THE OAK TREE — Orchestral Ensemble

Arrangement by: Constantin Arvinte.

Gaily the Moldavians perform a "Hora," a linked chain dance in which the dancers vigorously stamp the ground.

"... Where the Moldavians are dancing,

Under their feet the very earth is trembling..."

To join the "Hora" indicates reaching maturity for a boy and girl.

5. SUITE OF DANCES FROM THE "CODRU MOUNTAINS"

Choreography: Ion Ilie.
Music: Constantin Arvinte.

These dances from Northern Transylvania call for the girls to support their partners in the most difficult figures of the dance, during which the boys turn back-somersaults in high spirits and with vivacious skill.

6. DIANCA — Ciocirlia Orchestra

Arrangement by: Viorel Dobos.

This is a dance from the Oltenia region, full of grace, joy, colour and verve.

The music expresses the gaiety of the people from this picturesque region.

7. "SING FOR ME, VIOLIN"

"Ceteras" on the Gaiia Mountains.

Soloist: Pop Simion.

A beautiful sentimental song popular in Rumania.

A "Ceteras" is a violin player.

The second song expresses the happiness of a peasants' fiesta. The traditional "Fair of Girls on the Gaiia Mountains" (the Hen Mountain). Here, once a year, the boys of the various villages meet the most beautiful girls in the region, at the foot of the mountain, and select their partners.

8. THE CLOCK

Soloist on Violin: Aurel Romcescu.

A slow, typically Rumanian melody with its delightful pizzicato technique suggesting the ticking of a clock.

9. MARANGHIILE

Choreography: Gh. Popescu Judet.

Music: Constantin Arvinte.

Soloists: Magda Popescu, Alecu Marin, Ion Calateanu, Ion Cristian.

The dance of "Maranghii" — a kind of silk headscarf — which the girls wave above their heads during the dance weaving picturesque patterns.

10. THE CALUSARI DANCE

Choreography and Soloist: Ion Ilie and Gheorghe Ilie.

Music: Constantin Arvinte.

A traditional number in which the men of the village execute various dance steps and athletic feats under the guidance of the best dancer of the town.

Originally performed with swords it does not lose any of the thrills or skill in its present form.

INTERMISSION

● PART II

11. SUITE OF OLTENIAN DANCES

Choreography: Tamara Cap.

Music: Constantin Arvinte.

A dance suite originally performed in Oltenia, a picturesque region in South-West Rumania, and famous for the colourful costumes worn by both the men and women.

12. HORA STACCATO — Orchestral Ensemble

Music: Grigoras Dinicu.

One of the most famous of all Rumanian melodies, the "Hora Staccato" composed by this famous Bucharest violinist is now played all over the world but never better than by this ensemble.

13. DOINA AND DANCE FROM LISTEAVA

Soloist on Caval and Fluier: Dumitru Zamfira.

Dumitru Zamfira, from the Oltenia region, is a messenger of the music of this region. Devoted to his art he plays the caval, a shepherd's long pipe, and a fluier, a shorter instrument from which he obtains unusual melodies.

14. DIALOGUE ON TWO CYMBALOMS

Soloists: Toni Iordache and Alecu Ilie.

An unusual duo backed by the violins.

A cymbalom is a dulcimer, prototype of the piano, played by hand with muted hammers.

15. MOLDAVIAN DANCE

Choreography: Gh. Popescu Judet.

Music: Constantin Arvinte.

Soloists: Elena Tircolea and Vasile Paraschivescu.

The Moldavian people are generally of a placid temperament, a fact which is reflected in their music and dances.

16. BRIUL (THE GIRDLE DANCE)

Choreography: Gh. Popescu Judet.

Music: Constantin Arvinte.

Soloists: Ion Ilie, Gheorghe Ilie, Ion Calateanu, Stefan Spartarelu, Gheorghe Jumatate, C. Beresteanu.

An old Rumanian dance of increasing tempo. The men during the dance catch at each other's girdle and the tempo builds to an almost frenetic pace.

17. SIRBA IN THE CART — Orchestral Ensemble

One of the most popular traditional Rumanian compositions, it is based on one note, consistently struck on the cymbalom.

The sound is characteristic of the monotonous amble of waggons on a country road on their way to a wedding.

Whilst the merry passengers play their violins, increasing in tempo, the horses start galloping, urged on by the wedding guests, culminating in a melange of descriptive sound.

18. "BUCIUMUL" AND "LITTLE SLED WITH SLEIGH BELLS"

Soloist: Angela Moldovan.

A "Buciumul" is a shepherd's musical instrument, similar to an Alpenhorn. This song was written to remind us of the sound of this instrument.

19. "SIRBA" AND "CIOCIRLIA"

Soloist on Panpipes: Stanciu Simion.

Sirba is a lively colourful dance known all over the country.

"Ciocirlia" (The Skylark), a traditional melody, has long been an outstanding favourite all over the world.

20. THE SOMESH WEDDING

Music: Viorel Dobos.

Soloists: Elena Tircolea and Vasile Paraschivescu.

This dance depicts a wedding in the Somesh region.

It starts with the organising of the party, followed by the villagers at the feast, the wedding guests' procession, the dance of the false bride in the traditional seeking of the bride by the groom among all the girls who are dressed alike, the wedding feast characterised by the roasted chicken and the groom's toast to all for health and long life.

A gay ensemble with the full Ciocirlia Rumanian National Dance Company and Orchestra.



AUTHENTIC COSTUMES

The costumes worn by this company from the various regions are authentic. Most of them are of hemp, cotton or wool and are characterised by the extensive use of white as a background.

The fine embroideries which skilfully decorate these costumes are made of vegetable-colour dyed thread and rank amongst the most colourful in the world. Much can be learned by these costumes and one is able to determine a man's age, employment, region and marital status by his costume. Men's working clothes, for example, are cut loosely. A wide belt indicates someone who works in the woods, a long sheepskin coat with the fur turned to the outside would indicate a shepherd, etc., etc.

Young people's costumes are more diverse in the number of pieces, decorations and colour.

After marriage the ornamental composition of the costume is simplified and increasingly darker shades of colour are used. An important item is the headdress of the women. There is a striking difference between that of a single girl and a married woman.

In general, the women's costume consists of a blouse, skirt and a piece that covers the skirt, the latter varies in each region. In Transylvania and Oltenia it consists of two aprons, one in front and one behind, called the Calrinta. In parts of Oltenia it is often a richly decorated pleated skirt called a Vilnic, a one-piece skirt called a Fota is typical of Moldavia, while the Banat women can be identified by fringed aprons called an Opreg.





The most finely ornamented costumes, often made especially for the purpose, are worn at weddings. The essential piece of the wedding costume is the bride's headdress. In the making of these the imagination has full play creatively combining such diverse elements as fabrics, embroidery, ribbons, glass beads, tiny mirrors, leaves, gold thread, silk, velvet, wool, etc. Ornamental motifs on the costumes are usually geometrical and can be flowers, birds, animals, etc.



THE CIOCIRLIA ORCHESTRA

To play the romantic and exciting music that has inspired such composers as Franz Liszt, Bartok and Georges Enesco demands a high standard of musical virtuosity.

All Rumanian orchestras are noted for their string players and one of the programme's highlights is the solo performance of Dinicu's Hora Staccato, by Aurel Romcescu a "tour-de-force" for violinists since its first performance on a concert programme by virtuoso Jascha Heifetz. The string section of the orchestra will also present some of the music that served as an inspiration for the Rumanian Rhapsodies of Georges Enescu.



NO one man has ever presented the Provincial theatres with such a wealth and variety of International Dance attractions as Leslie A. Macdonnell, Managing Director of Moss Empires.

In the last seven years he has given us the great Ballets and Dance Companies not only from Covent Garden and other British centres, but also from Spain, Mexico, the U.S.S.R., Japan, Israel, Poland, South America, Australia and many others.



Leslie A. Macdonnell

Of the Rumanian National Dance Company, Mr. Macdonnell says, "It is without doubt one of the most fascinating and spectacular dance presentations with which I have ever been associated. The Rumanian National Dance Company and Orchestra is an unforgettable theatrical experience, and one which I felt should be made available to the theatre-going public in the provincial cities of Great Britain, who have always shown the utmost appreciation of the many exciting dance companies which it has been my privilege to make available to them."

Leslie A. Macdonnell

Managing Director, Moss Empires Ltd.