

Cristian and Sonia Dion Florescu

Status: Active
Specialty: Romanian
Range: Romanian



Cristian Florescu was born in Bucarest, Romania. He started dancing in 1982 with different Romanian folk ensembles and studied with various specialists, including Theodor Vasilescu. Cristian was principal dancer with the National Ensemble *Cununa Carpatilor* with whom he toured extensively in Europe, Asia, and North America. In 1990-91, he received his certificate as a recognized solo dancer and choreographer in the field of folklore by the Romanian Ministry of Culture and the ACAFR (Romanian Folklore Choreographers Association). He also assumed the role of director of dance rehearsals for the Folk Ensembles *Izvor* and *Balada* and worked as choreographer for the Academic Ensemble *Joc* in Moldova. In 1993, he joined *Les Sortilèges*, a professional folk dance company based in Montréal with whom he was actively involved until 2003 as a dancer, teacher, rehearsal director, and choreographer. While in Canada, Cristian has acquired multiple skills in various dance forms including modern dance, ballroom, jazz, and tap, as well as French-Canadian and Irish step dancing.

Sonia Dion Florescu was born in Québec and has been a professional dancer for over 20 years. She was lead dancer and choreographer for *Les Sortilèges* Dance Company, Canada's oldest folk dance ensemble, with whom she developed several new productions including *Une page d'histoire*, *un pas de danse*, *Montréal en danse*, and *Pour se faire plaisir*. Sonia has toured worldwide and has been exposed to a wide range of dance techniques including Romanian Folk Dance, Scottish Highland Dancing, French-Canadian step dance, and ballroom dance.

The couple were married during the first week's camp at the Stockton Folk Dance Camp in 2010.

Cristian and Sonia have been guest performers with the *Collage International Dance Ensemble* of Boston, have been regular teachers at l'École supérieure de danse du Québec, and have been selected to be part of the Artists in the Schools program sponsored by the Québec Ministry of Education. In recent years, they have developed a specific interest in working with recreational folk dance groups in Canada and the United States to share their love of Romanian folk traditions.

The couple has produced two fine CD recordings of Romanian dance music: *Romanian Realm Vol. 1* and *2*, a DVD of them doing their dances, and a dance notation CD.

Dances Cristian and Sonia have taught include *Batuta la râ*, *Braşoveanca*, *Brâul fetelor din Drăguş*, *Călaşul din Conţeşti*, *Codrenească din Valea Chioanului*, *Clopoşelul*, *Dana (Rom)*, *Dansuri din Firiza*, *De-nceput din Cluj*, *Geamparalele din Babadag*, *Haulit din Bucovina*, *Hora*, *Hora de la Husi*, *Hora de la Soroca*, *Hora de munte*, *Horă din pusta banatului*, *Hora lăutărească*, *Hora lăutărească din Dolj*, *Hora Pojorenilor*, *Hora schioapa*, *Ina Ina*, *Inel inel de aur (Rom)*, *Întoarsa de la Păuliş*, *Învărtita din Căstău*, *Joc de bâ*, *Joc du doiu*, *Jocul Soacrei*, *Jurelul*, *Made în Romania*, *Maki Maki (Rom)*, *Maneaula (Rom)*, *Nunta din Cluj*, *Opinca*, *Opincuta*, *Periniţa*, *Plaiuri Besarabene*, *Plaiuri româneşti*, *Plaiuri româneşti 2*, *Plaiuri româneşti 3*, *Polca din Bătrâni*, *Purtata de pa Mureş*, *Romanaţa lui Stefăneţ*, *Sârba din concert*, *Sârba Zărneştenilor*, *Suita de dansuri din Ardeal*, *Suita de dansuri din Banat*, *Suita de dansuri din Moldova*, and *Te aven baxtale (Rom)*.