

ZEMER ATIK
(Israeli)

When Rivkah Sturman returned to Israel from the United States in 1958 she decided that there was a need for a simple dance which had a Jewish motif and Israeli flavor. It need to be so simple that the whole nation could participate. Rivkah choreographed the dance, Zemer Atik, which means "Ancient Song", and then went to Amitai Ne'eman, who had composed many folk songs, and then to M. Kashtan. In this way was created the folk dance, the music, and the works.

MUSIC: Record: Symphonia LP #201

Melodic line: Songs and Folk Dances, #3, pg. 28 Edition, Negen
Joel Schreiber, 59 Allenby St., Tel-Aviv, 1958

FORMATION: Couples in a single circle. W in front of M, R hand on L
shoulder of person in front. All face in CCW LOD.

STEPS: Running, step bend

MUSIC: 4/4 PATTERN

Measures INTRODUCTION

- 1-2 I-a) Begin with R. Do 4 light running steps fwd (ct. 1-4). Step-bend R (ct. 1); clap hands slightly fwd R outside of circle (ct 2) Step-bend L (ct 3); clap hands slightly fwd L inside of circle (ct 4). Keep hands at shoulder height.
- 3-8 Repeat action of I-a 3 times.
- 9-10 I-b) All face center of circle. Hold hands, elbows bent, shoulder-height. HANDS ARE NOT JOINED. 2 step-bends R L twd center (ct 1, 3); snap finger on (ct 2, 4). Begin R and move bck with 4 light running steps (ct 1-4); bring hands gradually down to side; Body bends fwd. slightly.
- 11-16 Repeat action of I-b 3 times.
- 1-2 II-a) Couples in double circle, M on inside. Face CCW with inside hands joined. Begin R, do 4 running steps fwd (ct 1-4). Facing pt do 2 step-bend steps toward pt (ct 1-4).
- 3 M sends W fwd to new pt. W takes 4 light running steps; M does 4 steps in place (ct 1-4).
- 4 Face new partner; join inside hands and do 2 step-bends steps in place (ct 1-4).
- 5-8 Repeat action II-a again changing partners on meas. 5 and 7.
- II-b) Couples face CCW; inside hands joined.
- 1 Begin R. Do 2 step-bend steps fwd (ct 1-4).
- 2 W takes 4 light running steps in place while making a 1/2 turn CCW under M's R arm. M does 4 steps in place (ct 1-4). M keeps R arm above W's head. W places R hand at small of M's back. M's L arm remains at side.
- 3 Both turn CW with 2 step-bend steps (ct 1-4).
- 4 W continues to turn CW to LOD with 4 running steps. M passes behind W's back to original position with 4 light running steps (ct 1-4).
- 5-8 Repeat action of II-b. Finish in single line R hand on L shoulder of person ahead.

Taught by Yo. VanZwol, 1-1-63