

BARDEZUH MER

BARDEZUH MER (Our Garden) is from Yerzinga, the second largest city in the region of Garin. This dance, like many Yerzingatzi dances, moves CW to the left. This dance was first introduced to international folkdancers by Francis Ajoian, the director of the Cilicia Dancers in Fresno, Ca. This group, during the 50's, performed many traditional village dances of Western Armenia, particularly those from Yerzinga. She published a small booklet of her group's dances, Armenian Bar Dances, some years ago.

Source: Tom Bozigian of Fresno, California. Tom is an Armenian Dance performer and instructor who has studied dance at the Sayat Nova Choreographic School in Soviet Armenia, and teaches dance workshops around the world.

Music: Bardezuh Mer (Express X101-B) 9/8 tempo

Style: Erect relaxed carriage. Steps are small.

Formation: Open circle dance in "Armenian hold" (little fingers are interlocked with hands held at shoulder height).

<u>Meas.</u>	<u>Ct.</u>	<u>Movements</u>
1	1-4	Step backward R (ct1). Lift L in front (ct2). Step on left heel to left (ct 3). Step on R behind L as L pivots on heel to left (ct 4). Pause (ct a).
2	1-4	Step on left heel to left (ct 1). Step on R behind L as L pivots on heel to left (ct 2). Repeat (cts 3-4). Pause (ct a). <u>Note</u> : Body turns slightly to right and left (ct 1-right, 2-left, 3-right, 4-left).
3	1-4	Step backward L (ct 1). Lift R in front (ct 2). Step R to right (ct 3). Close L beside R (ct 4). Pause (ct a).
4	1-4	Keeping knees together, bend knees together to left diagonal (ct 1). Straighten knees (ct 2). Bend knees to right diagonal (ct 3). Straighten knees (ct 4). Pause (ct a).
5	1-4	Moving forward, step forward on R (ct 1). Hop on R as L lifts beside right calf (ct 2). Step forward on L (ct 3). Stamp R beside L, no weight, slightly in front of L (ct 4). <u>Note</u> : Arms, still joined, swing down to sides (cts 1-2) and back up again (cts 3-4). Pause (ct a).
6	1-4	Step backward R (ct 1). Lift L in front (ct 2). Step forward L (ct 3). Stamp R beside L, no weight, slightly in front of L (ct 4). <u>Note</u> : Arms, still joined, swing down to sides (cts 1-2) and back up again (cts 3-4). Pause (ct a).