

BEEJO

Armenia

SOURCE

Beejo is from a group of dances from the region of SEPASTIA, Ancient Western Armenia. The major list of dances that the "SEPASTATSEE" perform are SEPO, JONPERDE, CHEKEEN HALAEE, and HEKEREE. It was learned by Mr. Bozigian during spring, 1977 research trip in Armenian communities of eastern seaboard states. It was taught to him by ARSEN ANOUSHIAN who conducts the Armenian Folk Dance Society of New York and has worked for decades toward the preservation of original Armenian songs and dances. Beejo to this day is danced consistently by groups of Armenians in the eastern U.S.

CD: Best of Tom Bozigian Songs & Dances of the Armenian People Vol. 1

Formation: Mixed line dance with leader R as dancers utilize little finger hold down at side pos (Note--Arms always swing straight)

Meter: 6/8 - Meas described in 2 cts

PATTERN

Meas INTRODUCTION

- 1-8 Facing ctr & in pl swing arms fwd & bkwd 16 times (cts 1-2 times 8)
- 1-8 Continuing to swing arms step R to R (ct 1) Cross L over R (ct 2) and repeat 7 more times (cts 1-2 times 7)
- 1 **FIG I** Step R sdwd R as arms swing fwd (ct 1) Step L over R as arms swing bkwd ct 2)
- 2 Step R-L-R in pl turning body slightly diag LOD while arms swing fwd & bkwd (cts 1 & 2)
- 3 Stamp L beside R as arms swing fwd (ct 1) lift L heel off fl with slight hop on R as arms swing bkwd (ct 2)
- 4 Step L-R-L in pl turning body slightly diag RLOD while arms swing fwd & bkwd (cts 1 & 2)
- 5 Stamp R beside L as arms swing fwd (ct 1) repeat meas 3, ct 2 with opp ftwk (ct 2)
- 1-5 **FIG II "TSERKER MECHKEEN"** (Hands on waist)
Same as Fig I except hands on waist and at meas 3 clap on ea ct (cts 1-2 times 5)
- 1-5 **FIG III "BUDOOEET"** (Turn)
Same as Fig II except at meas 1 body makes full CW turn (cts 1-2 times 5)
- 1 **FIG IV "YEREK OO MEG"** (3 & 1)
Moving LOD step R to R as arms swing fwd (ct 1) step L over R as arms swing bk (ct 2)
- 2 Step R to R as arms swing fwd (ct 1) hop R in pl kicking L across R as arms swing bk (ct 2)

- 3 Step L in pl kicking R across as arms swing fwd (ct 1) hop L in pl as arms swing bk (ct 2)

FIG V "TSAKHEEN" (To L)

- 1 Repeat Fig I meas 1 cts 1-2 (cts 1-2)
- 2 Repeat Fig I meas 2 cts 1-2 (cts 1-2)
- 3 Repeat Fig I meas 3 cts 1-2 (cts 1-2)
- 4 Moving sdwd L with large steps step L to L as arms swing fwd (ct 1) Close R to L (ct 2) Large step L to L as arms swing bkwd (ct 2)
- 5 Stamp R beside L as arms swing fwd (ct 1) hop L in pl as R leg raises in front (ct 2)