



BIJO

BIJO is a large class of dances done throughout the rural districts of Sepastia, a province of Western Armenia. The same name was used for a variety of different steps and melodies. KHOBODTSI BIJO is from Khorod, an Armenian village in Southeast Sepastia. It was originally introduced to the Armenian Folk Dance Society of New York in 1939 by Mary Erettsian. The dance is still very popular among the Armenian communities of New York and New Jersey, and is commonly referred to as the "New York Bijo" to distinguish it from the other Bijo dances practiced in New England and Detroit. The "triti putilike" armswing maintained throughout the dance is quite easy once the correct rhythm is established.

Source: Arsen Anoushian, Mary Erettsian Pahlevanian, Eddie Keosaiian.

Music: Traditional Armenian Dances by Arsen Anoushian

Style: Relaxed, erect carriage. The dance starts slowly and smoothly, but gradually accelerates. As the tempo increases, the dancers must control their armswing to maintain the smooth rhythm.

Formation: Open circle with hands joined and down.

<u>Meas.</u>	<u>Ct.</u>	<u>Movements</u>
		<u>Introduction</u>
1-8	1-16	Stand facing center and swing arms in (ct 1) and out (ct 2). Repeat 7 times (cts 3-16).
9-16	17-32	Still facing center, walk in CCW direction as continue to swing arms. Step R to right (ct 17). Step L across R (ct 18). Repeat 7 times (cts 19-32).

note..This armswing continues throughout the dance, always going in on the odd counts and going out on the even counts.

<u>BASIC</u>		
1-2	1-4	Still swinging arms, step R to right (ct 1). Step L beside R (ct &). Step R in place (ct 2). Press/step forward on L, but keep weight still on R (ct 3). Hold (ct 4). Lift L sharply (ct &).
3-4	5-8	Step L to left (ct 5). Step R beside L (ct &). Step L in place (ct 6). Step/stamp R in front of L (ct 7). Raise R slightly (ct 8).
5	9-10	Walk to right (ct 9). Step L over R (ct 10).