

~~DEBK~~

Presented by Dave Rosenberg

DUBKE

Arabian

The dubke, with its many variations, is the most popular dance among those Americans of Arabian descent. Dubkes are enjoyed at all Syrian, Lebanese, and Arabian gatherings in this country. There are many dubke tunes, some traditional, some currently popular songs. Several record companies record in this field, such as Alamphon, in Brooklyn, New York, where there is a very large population of Arabian descent. You will find both of the dubkes described here done in Brooklyn and in Boston, Massachusetts. There are many different ways to spell dubke, so don't be surprised if you find it on a record spelled dabke, debka, dubka, dubkee.

RECORD: Suggested records are Al Chark Records 223,227; Alamphon 2086.

FORMATION: A broken circle of dancers, leader at the right. Hands are joined together and elbows bent, with arms entwined, so that dancers are close together.

SYRIAN-LEBANESE DUBKE

With weight on right foot, place left foot directly forward; then bring it back to place and step on left foot, next to right foot. With weight on left foot, place right foot forward; then bring it back and step on right foot.

Take two walking steps to the right, beginning with left foot (left foot crosses in front of right foot, then right goes to right side).

Repeat from beginning.

As dance progresses and music gets livelier or faster, the steps alter a bit. Instead of just placing the left foot in front, make this a stamp; instead of just placing the right foot forward, this becomes a short little kick (or lift) with even a suggestion of a hop on the left foot at the same time.

The leader, who should be a man, does not follow the set pattern throughout, but may accent the rhythm with his steps, turn in place, or slap his heels with his hand.

Half the fun of a dubke is the vocal part. IT should not be danced in silence, but dancers should yell out encouragement to the leaders and others in the line--such as "hizz, hiss" (shake it); "yakta, yakta" (oh, my sister); "yabuey, yabuey" (oh, my brother--this is like saying atta boy); or "ah la la la la la" (this is done mainly with your tongue and is untranslatable).

Continued..