

ERETZ ISRAEL YAFFA

(Israel)

This dance was choreographed by Yakov "Yankele" Levy in the late 1970s. It is a rare circle dance in waltz rhythm. This dance continues to be popular because the song is a favorite of Israelis everywhere. It is, in essence, a love song to the Land of Israel.

Translation: The Lovely Land of Israel

Formation: Circle facing center, hands joined and down whenever possible.

Step: L Yemenite step backward: Step backward onto L (ct 1), step on R next to L (ct 2), step forward onto L (ct 3)

Part I

Meas.

- 1 Step on R to R (ct 1); step on L in front R (ct 2); step back into place on R (ct 3)
- 2 Sway L (ct 1); sway R (ct 2); begin a turn to the L by stepping to L on L (ct 3)+
- 3 Dropping the handhold, finish the turn to the L with two more steps R and L (ct 1, 2); step on R in front of L (ct 3)
- 4 Rejoin hands while stepping on L to L (ct 1); step on R behind L (ct 2); step on L to L (ct 3)
- 5 Three steps in waltz rhythm moving toward the center of the circle R-L-R (ct 1-3); arms rise slightly to about shoulder height
- 6 Three steps in waltz rhythm moving away from center of the circle L-R-L (ct 1-3); arms drop again to sides, hands joined.
- 7 Drop handhold. Full turn to R with three steps in waltz rhythm (R-L-R) moving CCW around circle, and end facing to center (ct 1-3)
- 8 Rejoin hands while doing a L Yemenite step backward (ct 1-3)

Part II

Meas.

- 1 One waltz step forward beginning with R (ct 1-3). Hands swing diagonally fwd to R, snapping fingers on ct 2
- 2 One waltz step forward beginning with L (ct 1-3). Hands swing diagonally fwd to L, snapping fingers on ct 2
- 3 One waltz step forward beginning with R (ct 1-3), while making 1/2 turn to the R to end facing CW
- 4 L Yemenite backward in waltz rhythm (ct 1-3)
- 5-8 Repeat meas. 1-4 with same footwork, but face and move CW. On meas. 8, while stepping onto L (ct 3), raise L hand with palm toward body. Slap back of R hand onto palm of L hand (ct &).

SEQUENCE: Each Part is done twice, and the dance is done 3-4 times, depending on the music.

ERETZ ISRAEL YAFA

Na'ara tova yafat einayim
Lanu yesh be'erezt Israel
Ve'yeled tov yerushalaim
Oh mi pilel oh mi milel

Vetora ora kazu yesh lanu
Vegam hagada umegila
Ve'elohim echad shelanu
Vekol chatan vekol kala

Chorus:

Eretz Israel yafa; eretz Israel porachat
At yoshva ba vetzofa
At tzofa ba veporachat

Lanu yesh achai, harim alpaim
Bam na'avu raglei hamevaser
Vegam mal'ach min hashamaim
She'et nafshenu hu shomer

Vechasid ba'ir hazu yesh lanu
Vegam cha'yalot vegam prachim
Vehabrachot kulan shelanu
Vehabsorot vehashvachim

(Chorus)

Vehaemek hu kaftor vaperach
Vehahar hu kaftor vaperach
Vehatzafon shlagim vakerach
Vehadaron zahav tahor

Kol hapardesim notnim kan reach
Vehashkediot kulan porchat
Hashemesh kan tamid zoreach
Al mei tuga umenuhot

(Chorus)

Gam laparchachim asher beinenu
Yesh makom be'erezt Israel
Min hatzarot shelo aleinu
Ata verak ata go'el

Bekachol lavan munaf hadegel
Vele'yerushalaim kol shirai
Anachnu shuv olim laregel
Oh, shiri am Israel chai

THE LOVELY LAND OF ISRAEL

Nice girls with beautiful eyes
We have in Eretz Israel
And good boys
Oh, who would have believed it

And we have the light of a Torah
And the Hagadah and the Megilla
And we have the one God
And the voices of the bride and the groom

Chorus:

Israel is beautiful, Israel is blooming
You sit and watch
You look at her, and you shine.

Brothers, we have 2000 year old mountains
Where the bearer of good news walked
And an angel from heaven
Who is watching our souls

And we have Hasids in this city
And women soldiers and flowers
And all the blessings are ours
And the gospels and the praises

(Chorus)

And the valley is extraordinary
And the mountain is extraordinary
And the north is snow and ice
And the south is pure gold

All the orchards here spread their scent
And all the almond trees are blooming
The sun always shines here
On waters of sadness and serenity

(Chorus)

As for the presumptuous among us
They also have a place in the Land of Israel
From all the distresses, God forbid,
You, but only you, can save

In blue and white the flag is flying
And towards Jerusalem go all my songs
We again are making a pilgrimage
Oh, sing: Long live the people of Israel!