

KOCHAREE  
Armenia

**SOURCE:** This dance is also called "HALE" or "HALAEE" by original Armenian immigrants from Western Armenia, which today takes up much of the eastern part of Turkey. It is one of the most popular Armenian dances and is done throughout Soviet Armenia and by the Armenians dispersed throughout the world. There are many regional styles and figures. This particular "KOCHAREE" was researched in several northwestern regions of Soviet Armenia-Leninkan, Spitak, Artik, Talin- but has spread throughout the republic. In the higher mountain areas where the shepherds-"HOVEEV" in Armenian- are grazing their herds during the hot summer, KOCHAREE is the most popular dance. The orchestra consists of two ZURNA- a double-reeded, conical pipe with one producing the melody and the other holding the main drone or "DAM" and one double-skinned drum called "DUHOL." Some of the more complex movements are called "GHOCH," from the butting of the mountain ram and the "KHACHADZEV," from the jumping style of the mountain deer. The dance was learned by Tom Bozigian as a youngster in Los Angeles during the summer, early 1950's.

**RECORD:** "Tom Bozigian Presents Songs and Dances of the Armenian People," Volume II, GT 4001.

**FORMATION:** Mixed line dance with the dancers facing center and drawn closely side by side with palms grasped and fingers interlocked plus arms straight down at sides. Leader, called "PAREE-GLOOKH," is at R and waves a handkerchief with free hand over the head throughout the dance.

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**MUSIC:** 2/4, changing to 6/8 PATTERN

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<u>Measure</u>	<u>FIGURE I</u>
1	Moving sdwd., step R to R (ct.1); (NOTE: As the dance gets on, the participant has the option to make the initial R step a small double-bounce (ct.1-and); step L beside R as R lifts slightly off fl. (ct.2).
2	Step R to R with slight plie (ct.1); double-bounce twice in pl. with R as L remains to L, touching fl. (ct. 2-and).
3	Switch body wt. to L with slight plie(ct.1); switch body wt. again to R with double-bounce (ct.2-and).
4	Switch wt. again to L with slight plie (ct.1); slight hop on L in pl. as R knee raises in front and heel lifts behind (ct.2).
	<u>FIGURE II (6/8)</u>
1	Quickly switching arm hold to grasp shoulders of adjoining dancers, hop on L to R as R knee raises in front and R heel is pulled sharply behind to calf level (ct.and); step R to R with slight plie (cts. 1-3); leap L across R still in slight plie (cts. 4-6).

(cont.)

Measure

- 2 Leap R to R as ball of L touched beside R (cts. 1-3); hop R in pl. as L ft. raises in front above fl., knee at waist level (cts. 4-6).
- 3 Leap L in pl. as ball of R ft., with heel turned in, touches fl. in front of L (cts. 1-3); repeat this meas. 3 of Fig. II, with opp. ftwk. (cts. 4-6).
- 4 Repeat meas. 3 of Fig. II, cts. 1-3 (cts. 1-3); hop L in pl. as R knee, bent, raises in front, waist level, not across (cts. 4-5); NOTE: The dance begins on ct. 6 as described on meas. 1, ct. and, of Fig. II.

Notation by Tom Bozigian