

LAZ BAR #2

The Moslem Laz are one of the few widely accepted, non-turkic minorities in Turkey today. Ethnically and linguistically, they are most closely related to the Kartvelians (Georgians), and live along the coasts of Trebizond on the Black Sea, and in the adjacent Pontic Mountains. Their dances are closely related to those of the neighboring Pontic Greeks. Although this area is not part of Historic Armenia, there has always been a sizable Armenian community living there for millennia. The Armenian king Tigran II (95-55 BC) married Cleopatra, daughter of Mithradates Eupator of Pontus, and established close ties which persisted until now. The Armenians from that area danced with the same intense body shimmys and quick nervous movements exhibited by the Laz, and had adopted and developed many similar dances. The original survivors are gone now, or are too old to dance. These dances still remain to some degree, however, and are done by the present generation of Armenian-Americans. The intense Laz style has been lost, but the dances are still recognizable as being "LAZ BARS".

Source: Armenian community of Greater Boston. This is the popular version done by the young today. The old version, which I am also including here, is the same dance as it was done some thirty years ago, by the original immigrants. We learned this traditional version from Armen Javian of Arlington, Mass. Armen's entire family were part of a dance group in the 40's, which did both Western Armenian and Kavkaz dances.

Music: Dance Armenian Side A-band #2, or any good 7/8 'LAZ BAR' music.

Style: Erect, very loose carriage with slightly flexed knees.

Formation: Open circle in "Armenian hold" (little fingers interlocked with hands held at shoulder height), but held closer to the shoulders than is usual. This dance moves slowly to the right, with leader at right end.

<u>Meas.</u>	<u>Ct.</u>	<u>Movements</u>
1	1&2	Facing center, step RLR to right with relaxed flex of knees (cts 1 & 2).
2	3&4	Step LRL in place (cts 3 & 4).
3	5&6	Step RLR in place (cts 5 & 6).
4	7&8	Step forward L (ct 7). Step R beside L (ct 8). Step L beside R (ct 8).
5	9,10	Step back on R (ct 9). Step back On L (ct 10).

NOTE: This is the original version.

<u>Meas.</u>	<u>Ct.</u>	<u>Movements</u>
1-3	1-6	Same as in modern version.
4	7&8	Footwork is same as modern version, but dancers lean forward and swing arms down so that all arms, still joined, are extended down at 45° towards floor.
5	9,10	Footwork same as in modern version, but straighten body and raise arms to original position as back out.