

ARMENIAN POLKA

(Ach Kabooger Lav Khagh e / Blindfold)

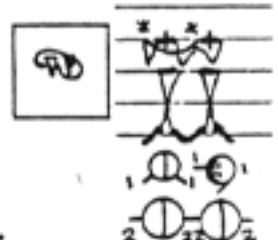
This popular tune, which is known throughout the Western world, probably originated in Turkey or the Balkans. Arev Kasparian originally learned this song when she was a child, as a 'play-party' game of the Armenian children in Western Armenia. In 1918 she moved to Samson, Turkey, where she found the song being used by adults for an "Armenian Polka". The Armenians of Istanbul and Smyrna were a very cosmopolitan, western-oriented community. They preferred to dance the fashionable imported European dances, rather than the traditional Armenian 'peasant' dances. This particular ARMENIAN POLKA resembles the "Varsovienne" that was popular in late 19th century Europe. There were numerous Western inspired dances in the urban communities (e.g. ARMENIAN WALTZ, QUADRILLE, POLKA, etc.)

Source: Mrs. Arevelois Deranian Kasparian of No. Andover, Ma. In her youth, Mrs. Kasparian resided in an Armenian orphanage in Samson for two years (1919-1920). There she learned village dances from the orphans, who came from many regions of Western Armenia. From 1927-1929 she directed an Armenian Dance Group in Boston, which did traditional dances.

Music: Edward Bogosian Sings Irav E. Irav (Guirak # GLPS-75), Side B-band #5 "Dear Yeghso".

Style: This "European-Armenian" dance displays characteristic Armenian style.....the woman's eyes are always modestly downcast, and the "shuffle" steps in PART B are extremely smooth and flowing.

Formation: "Varsovienne" position. Couples side-by-side facing CCW around circle. Woman on right, man on left. Woman raises her hands to shoulder height. Man holds her left hand with his left, in front of him. He reaches his right hand around her back to hold her right in his. Same steps for both.



Meas.	Ct.	Movements
1-2	1-2	<u>PART A</u>Point R to right (ct 1). Close R beside L, no weight (ct 2).
	3-4	Point R to right (ct 3). Close and step on R beside left (ct 4).
3-4	5-6	Point L to left (ct 5). Close L beside R, no weight (ct 6).
	7-8	Point L to left (ct 7). Close and step on left beside R (ct 8).
5-8	9-16	Repeat (cts 1-8).

continued.....

.....ARMENIAN POLKA

<u>Meas.</u>	<u>Ct.</u>	<u>Movements</u>
1-2	1&2	<u>PART B</u>Move CCW around circle with shuffle steps. Step forward R (ct 1). Close L beside R (ct &). Step forward on R (ct 2).
	3&4	Step forward L (ct 3). Close R beside L (ct &). Step forward L (ct 4).
3-8	5-16	Repeat 6 times (cts 5-16).
7-8	13-16	<u>Variation</u> used for Mixer dance. On <u>PART B</u> 's last two shuffle steps, R-together-R, L-together-L, (cts 13&14, 15&16), instead of traveling, do them in place. Man turns woman CCW around him by raising his right arm (hands still joined) and making a CCW circle over his own head, so that he guides the woman around and behind him. Each one lets go of handhold and dances with new partner.

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Երևան, տոնական զարդ, 19-րդ դ.
Եր. Տ. Գրիգորյան
Проздничный костюм. Ереван, XIX в.
Худ. Ф. Григорян
Yerevan, Costume for Holiday Wear.
19th century.
Painted by F. Grigorian

