

SHEIKHANI

SHEIKHANI is considered the 'national' dance of the Assyrian people, and will be seen and heard at any Assyrian party. There are several different dances known as SHEIKHANI, since the name actually refers to a particular song these dances are done to. This is the SHEIKHANI of the Assyrian community in Worcester, who are primarily 'lowlanders'. Some 'highland' Assyrians from the Hakkari Mountains told us their SHEIKHANI is different, and that they call the dance described below ANA KATOKH.

Source: Elias & Maurice Hanna, Andruz Solomon, and Odishu Saliba, of the Worcester Assyrian community.

Music: Armenian Party Time Side A-band #2,
Assyrian Folk Dances (Folkraft LP 4) Side A-band #1
& #7 "SHEIKHANI",.....or any good 6/8 'SHEIKHANI' or
'PAPURI' rhythm.

Style: Most Assyrians exhibit 'lowland' style, which is characterized by an erect carriage, strong sharp movements, and a continuous bounce or vibration of the body. The rarer 'highland' style is more fluid and relaxed, and exhibits a peculiar torso sway too complicated to describe here.

Formation: Open circle in "Kurdish hold" (Dancers very close with fingers interlocked and arms bent at elbows, so that the forearms are at a right angle to the body, pointing forward).

<u>Meas.</u>	<u>Ct.</u>	<u>Movements</u>
1	1,2&	Keeping feet slightly apart, step/stamp forward on L (ct 1), with emphasis. Step forward on R (ct 2). Step forward on L (ct &).
2	3,4	Step forward on R (ct 3). Touch left heel forward (ct 4).
3	5,6	Step back on L (ct 5). Step back on R (ct 6).
4	7,8&	Step forward on L as turn CW to face to right, & put left hand on small of back (ct 7). Moving forward in line of direction, step forward R (ct 8). Step forward L (ct &).
5	9,10&	Step forward L (ct 9). Step forward L (ct 10). Step forward R (ct &).
6	11,12	Step forward L (ct 11). Turn to face center again as step on R, while L 'chugs' backward to end beside R (ct 12). Arms swing down to sides on (ct 12).
1	1	Arms swing up to "Kurdish hold" to begin dance again. <u>NOTE:</u> (cts 8&9), and (cts 10&11) are two-steps. The dance's rhythm is S,QQS,S,S,S,S,QQS,QQS,S. or...1,2&3,4,5,6,7,8&9,10&11,12.