

Shoror

(Armenia)

Susan and Gary Lind-Sinianian prepared this material for presentation at the 1986 University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp. Their sources are Ethnographic film from Soviet Armenia, Armen Javian and Berzig Parsekian of Boston.

Shoror (sho-ROR) comes from the districts of Moush/Daron and Sassoon, in Western Armenia. There are a wide variety of dissimilar dances called Shoror, which come from different districts. This dance was popular among the Mooshetsi immigrants in Fresno and Boston, who called it "Moosh". Several variants of this dance are practiced by international folk dancers (e. g., Moosh, Maymoomeh, Berde and Sassoon-ashentsee). This version of Shoror was presented by Gary Lind-Sinianian at the 1986 University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp.

CASSETTE: Gyondbashi "Armenian Folk Dances" Side B/2 2/4 meter

FORMATION: Line of dancers facing ctr; standing close together. Within the line hands are joined in "Armenian hold"; little fingers linked with hands at shldr level, elbows bent and down.

STEPS and STYLING: Step-close*, Two-step*. Done with small, flat-footed steps. Carriage is erect and relaxed, but the knees maintain a slight flex throughout the dance. The steps are comparatively small and restrained, but the whole body is involved in them.

*Described in Steps and Styling published by the Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc., 1275 "A" Street, Room 111, Hayward, California 94541.

MUSIC 2/4

PATTERN

Measures

- 1 meas INTRODUCTION No action. The dance may beg at the start of any 8 meas musical phrase.
- 1 Facing ctr, moving to the L (CW), step on R ft a little fwd and across L ft (ct 1); close and step on L ft beside R (ct &); step on R ft across L (ct 2). Joined arms sway to the R.
- 2 Step on L ft to L side (ct 1); close and step on R ft beside L (ct &); step on L ft to L side (ct 2). Joined arms sway to the L.
- 3 Step on R ft fwd, ball of L ft remains touching the floor, pull arms closer to chest (ct 1); shift wt back onto L ft, arms return to orig pos (ct 2).
- 4 Step on R ft sdwd to R side, arms swing down to "V" pos (ct 1); close and step on L ft beside R, arms return to "W" pos (ct 2).
- 5 Repeat meas 4, no wt on closing step (ct 2). One can raise the L ft with bent knee beside the R knee instead of closing, if desired.
- 6 Step on L ft fwd, ball of R ft remains on floor (ct 1); shift wt back onto R ft, ball of L ft remains on floor (ct 2). Arms remain in "W" pos.
- 7 Repeat meas 6.
- 8 Step on L ft beside R (ct 1); step on R ft in place (ct &); step on L ft in place (ct 2). Joined arms swing down to "V" pos and back up to "W" pos.
- Repeat dance from the beginning.