TAMZARA-POMPOOREEG
(Armenia)

This is a medley consisting of two of the most popular dances done by the Armenian people both in Soviet Armenia and in the Armenian Diaspora. The versions of these two dances were brought by Western (Anatolyan) Armenians to the U. S. during the last decade of the 19th century and early part of the 20th century. Several other versions exist from the various folk regions of both Eastern and Western Armenia, having been taken there by travelers and having evolved into other variations. Tom Bozigian danced these two variations as a child in Fresno, California.

Pronunciation:

Record: "Tom Bozigian Presents Songs and Dances of the
                   Armenian People," Vol. II, GT 4001.
                   9/8, 2/4, 6/8 meter

Formation: Mixed line dance with leader at R end and dancers
                   grasping little fingers of adjoining dancers at
                   shldr height. This is called "W" pos.

Meas	Pattern

9/8 meter   TAMZARA (♫♩ ♫♩ ♫♩ ♫♫♩)

1   Facing ctr throughout, step bkwd on R (cts 1-2); slight hop R in place as L knee raises in front of R leg, L ft ahead of R shin (cts 3-4); step slightly fwd on L as R lifts slightly off floor behind (cts 5-6); repeat action of cts 1-2 (cts 7-8); hop slightly on R as L ft kicks a little fwd still above floor (ct 9).

2   Repeat action of cts 1-4 (meas 1) but with opp ftwk (cts 1-4); step R to R as L remains on floor to L (cts 5-6); step L behind R (cts 7-8); slight hop on L as R ft raises slightly off floor (ct 9).

3   Moving twd ctr, step ahead on R as hands (little fingers remaining grasped) are lowered to sides (cts 1-2); hop on R in place as L knee raises in front and L heel lifts behind to inside of calf (cts 3-4); step ahead on L as hands are raised to orig pos (cts 5-6); stamp R, no wt, twice beside L (cts 7,8); hold (ct 9).

4   Step bkwd on R as arms are lowered to sides (cts 1-2); hop R in place (cts 3-4); step fwd on L as hands are raised to orig pos (cts 5-6); stamp R, no wt, twice beside L as hands clap twice at chest level (cts 7,8); hold (ct 9).

             Note: In Armenian line dances where the little fingers are grasped with adjoining dancers and where there are no definite vertical, horizontal, sdwd, or rotating arm movements described, there still exist slight arm punctuations or bobbings as guided by the rhythm and speed of the music.

TAMZARA-POMPOOREEG (continued)

2/4 meter POMPOOREEG.
1   Changing to hands on shldrs of adjoining dancers, arms
           straight and dancers continuing to face ctr throughout,
           step R sdwd to R (ct 1); step L behind R (ct 2).
2   Step R to R (ct 1); hop R in place as L knee raised in
           front of R and L heel is lifted to inside of R calf
           (ct 2).
3   Touch ball of L in front on floor, leg straight, as R
           makes small hop in place (ct 1); small leap L beside
           R as R knee raises in front of L and R heel lifts
           sharply to inside of L calf (ct 2).
4   Touch ball of R, straight leg, on floor ahead of L as
           L makes slight hop (ct 1); touch ball of R, straight
           leg, to diag LOD as L makes another slight hop (ct 2).
5   Step R, no wt beside L (ct 1); hold (ct 2).

6/8 meter POMPOOREEG.
1   Continuing to face ctr throughout, hop on L sdwd to R
           as R knee raises in front and R heel lifts sharply off
           floor (ct 1); leap R to R as L heel lifts sharply off
           floor (cts 2-3); leap L across R as R heel lifts
           sharply to inside of L calf, knee in front (cts 4-6).
2   Leap R to R as ball of L touches floor beside R (cts
           1-3); hop R in place as L heel lifts to inside of
           R calf, knee in front (cts 4-6).
3   Hop R in place as ball of L, straight leg, touches
           floor in front (cts 1-3); leap L beside R as R knee
           raises in front of L and R heel lifts sharply to inside
           of L calf (cts 4-6).
4   Hop L in place as ball of R, straight leg, touches on
           floor ahead of L (cts 1-3); hop L in place as R,
           straight leg, is extended to diag LOD above floor
           (cts 4-6).
5   Leap to both ft in place, ft together in slight plié
           (ct 1); hold (cts 2-6).

           OPTIONAL VARIATION: (First meas 6/8)
           Leap to both ft to R (ft and knees together) (ct 1);
           leap R in place as L kicks fwd above floor (cts 2-3);
           leap L across R as R heel lifts behind (cts 4-6).

                              Presented by Tom Bozigian