

Tamzara

Armenian-American

Tamzara (tahm-zah-RAH) is known as a song, a dance, and a man's name. In Arapkir, Anatolia, the name of a village is said to have been changed (to Tanzara) to honor a leader who showed hospitality to his guests by calling often to his daughter-in-law Zara to bring 'tan' (yoghurt mixed with salt water). The dance is generic, always in 9/8 meter, with many forms from many regions of Turkey, Eastern Armenia, the Greeks of the Pontos, and the countries of the Armenian diaspora. Different dances learned by Tineke van Geel in Yerevan, and by Tom Bozigian in California were taught at the Stockton Folk Dance Camp in 1992 and 1976, respectively, and by Fran Ajoian in 1955. The version described here was learned by Tineke from Armenian groups in the USA, especially at parties in New England. She taught the dance at the North/South Teachers' Seminar, October 22-24, 1999 at Monte Toyon, Aptos, CA, and at other workshops in California.

Music: CD or Cassette: Anoush - Armenian Dances (Van Geel Records 98/07), Side A/8.
For this popular generic dance, other Armenian dance music is available.

Rhythm: Meter = 9/8 = 2/8 + 2/8 + 2/8 + 3/8, counted here as 1, 2, 3, 4 or Q, Q, Q, S.

Formation: Mixed lines facing center, hands joined in W-pos with little fingers interlocked, L over R.

Steps: Windshield Wiper: With hands in W-pos, parallel forearms rotate individually around elbows fixed with respect to the torso. Direction is defined by hand movement to R or L.

Measures

PATTERN

INTRODUCTION. Begin dance on any measure, as determined by leader on right.

DANCE

- 1 Step on R to R with a Windshield Wiper to R (ct 1); step on L behind R with a Winshield Wiper to L (ct 2); repeat ct 1 (ct 3), step on L behind R, as hands finish centered in W-pos (ct 4).
- 2 Step fwd on R, as arms swing fwd and down (ct 1); bounce on R, raising L ft to calf level (ct 2); step fwd on L, as arms swing up to W-pos (ct 3); bending knees, stamp R sharply beside L twice, no wt (ct 4).
In meas 2 and 3 the stamps occur on the first and second beats of ct 4.
- 3 Step bkwd on R, as arms swing fwd and down (ct 1); bounce on R, bending L knee and raising L ft slightly off floor (ct 2); step fwd on L, as arms swing up to W-pos (ct 3); bending knees, stamp R sharply beside L twice, no wt (ct 4).
- 4 Step bkwd on R, as arms swing fwd and down (ct 1); bounce on R, raising L ft to calf level (ct 2); step bkwd on L, as arms swing up to W-pos (ct 3); touch R ft fwd (ct 4).

SEQUENCE: Repeat dance as written until music ends. To add variation, dancers may use short lines which begin dance on different musical measures.