

TAMZARA # 1 (CONTEMPORARY)

This old dance was very widespread throughout much of Western Armenia with many different regional variations, and is easily recognized by its characteristically Anatolian 9/8 rhythm. TAMZARA is distinct because it is one of the few Armenian dances done by mixed groups of men and women that was done in some regions without "Armenian hold". This is the contemporary version done by New England's young Armenian-Americans.

Source: Armenian communities throughout New England.

Music: Dance Armenian Side A-band 6, Armenian Party Time Side B-band 5, or any good 9/8 'TAMZARA' music. The 9/8 'TAMZARA' rhythm is much slower and heavier than the faster 'upbeat' 9/8 rhythm of a Turkish or Greek KARSHLAMA, and should not be confused with it. Note: Any 9/8 rhythm could be counted as (1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9) with each particular rhythm having its own distinct emphasis (e.g. TAMZARA'S is (1,2,1,2,1,2,1,2,3)), but instead I have noted it the way dancers usually interpret it as, namely (1,2,3,4,&) or (1,&2,&3,&4,&a), so a dancer can follow it more easily.

Style: This dance should be done with heavy strong movements, particularly by the leader of each set, whose "lead" must be clear.

Formation Couples or trios (man between two women) scattered at random across the dance area, with the arms behind the waists of partners.

Meas.	Ct.	Movements
1	1-4	<u>PART A</u>Moving to right, step R to right as torso and weight rock forward (ct 1). Step L behind R as torso and weight rock backward (ct 2). Repeat (cts 3-4). Pause (ct a).
2	1-4	<u>PART B</u>Moving forward, step forward on R (ct 1). Hop on R as L lifts beside right calf (ct 2). Step forward on L (ct 3). Stamp R beside L twice (cts 4,&). Pause (ct a).
3	1-4	<u>PART C</u>Moving backward, step back on R. (ct 1). Lift L in front (ct 2). Touch L toe in front of R (ct 3). Kick/flick L forward (ct 4). Pause (ct a).
4	1-4	<u>PART D</u>Moving backward, step back on L (ct 1). Lift R in front (ct 2). Touch R toe in front of L (ct 3). Kick/flick R forward (ct 4). Pause (ct a). <u>Note:</u> This dance has no set length for each part of the pattern. Change to the next part at leader's whim. e.g.....AAABBCDAABCDABBBBBBCD... ABCDABCDABCD