

TAMZARA #2 (TRADITIONAL)

Tamzara was 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 one of the many old village versions, still done occasionally by the elderly at picnics.

Source: Mrs. Arevelois Deranian Kasparian of No. Andover, Ma. In her youth, Mrs. Kasparian resided in an Armenian orphanage in Samson for two years (1919-1920). There she learned village dances from the orphans, who came from many regions of Western Armenia. From 1927-1929 she directed an Armenian Dance Group in Boston, which did traditional dances.

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,&,&), so that 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, or in "Armenian hold" (little fingers interlocked with hands held at shoulder height).

<u>Meas.</u>	<u>Ct.</u>	<u>Movements</u>
1	1-4	<u>PART A.....</u> In place, with R forward, point R to left diagonal by pivoting it on its heel, with heel remaining on floor (ct 1). Point R directly forward by pivoting it on its heel (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, no weight (ct 4). Pause (ct a).
3	1-4	<u>PART C.....</u> Moving backward, step back on R (ct 1). Lift left leg (ct 2). Touch left toe forward of R (ct 3). Brush left heel forward where toe was (ct 4). Pause (ct a).

cont.....

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Meas. Ct.
4 1-4

Movements

PART D..... Moving backward, step back on L (ct 1).
Lift right leg (ct 2). Touch right toe forward where
left toe was (ct 3). Leaving right toe in place, drop
right heel to floor sharply (ct 4). Pause (ct a).

Note: This dance has no set length for each part of the
pattern. One repeats each part as many times as one likes,
and changes to the next part when the leader of each in-
dividual set decides.

e.g.....AAABBCDAABCDABBBBBD...

ABCDABCDABCD...

AAAABBCDAAAABBCDCDAABBCD...

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Armenian church of St. Hripsime, built in 618 A.D.