

YERZINGA TAMZARA

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 as one of the few Armenian dances done by mixed groups, that in some areas did not use "Armenian hold". This traditional version of the dance, performed by the Armenians of Yerzinga, does use "Armenian hold", and has a set pattern.

Source: Margaret Tellalian Kyrkostas, Arsen Anoushian

Music: Dance Armenian (John Vartan) Side A-band 6, or any good 9/8 TAMZARA. The 9/8 "TAMZARA" rhythm is much slower and heavier than the faster "upbeat" of the Turkish and Greek 9/8 "KARSHLAMA" (e.g. Rampi Rampi), and should not be confused with it.

Style: Erect carriage, strong heavy movements.

Formation: Open circle dance in "Armenian hold" (little fingers interlocked with hands held at shoulder height).

Note...Any 9/8 rhythm can be counted as (1,2,3,4,5,-6,7,8,9), with each particular rhythm having it's own distinct emphasis. TAMZARA is (1,2,1,2,1,2,1,2,3), but instead we have noted it the way dancers often interpret it, namely (1,&,2,&,3,&,4,&,a).

<u>Meas.</u>	<u>Ct.</u>	<u>Movement</u>
1	1-4	<u>PART A</u> ...Keeping knees together, bend knees to left diagonal (ct 1). Straighten knees (ct 2). Bend knees to right diagonal (ct 3). Straighten knees (ct 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 (ct1). Lift left leg forward (ct 2). Step/rock forward onto L (ct 3). Step/rock backward onto R (ct 4). Pause (ct a).
4	1-4	<u>PART D</u> ...Moving to the left, rock forward onto L as body leans forward slightly (ct 1). Rock backward onto R as body leans backward slightly (ct 2). Repeat (cts 3-4). Pause (ct a).
5-7	1-12	Repeat <u>PART D</u> three more times.
8	1-4	<u>PART E</u> ...Moving backward, step back on L (ct 1). Lift R (ct 2). Step R to right (ct 3). Step L behind R (ct 4). Pause (ct a).

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