

Kocharee

This dance is called "Halay" by original Armenian immigrants from western Armenia, which today takes up much of the eastern part of Turkey. It is one of the most popular Armenian dances and is done throughout Armenia and by the Armenians dispersed throughout the world. There are many regional styles and figures. This particular "Kocharee" was researched in several northwestern regions of Armenia - Leninakan, Speetak, Arteek, Taleen- but has spread throughout the republic. In the higher mountain areas where the shepherds, "Hoveev", are grazing their herds during the hot summer, Kocharee is the most popular dance. The orchestra consists of two Zurna - a double-reeded, conical pipe with one producing the melody and the other holding the main drone or "Dam", and one double-skinned drum called "Duhol." Some of the more complex movements are called "Ghoch", from the butting of the mountain ram, and the "Khachadzev", from the jumping style of the same animal. The dance was learned by Tom Bozigian as a youngster in Los Angeles during the early 1950s.

Pronunciation: KOH-chah-ree

Formation: Mixed line dance with the dancers facing centre and drawn closely side by side, shoulders touching, with palms grasped and fingers interlocked plus arms straight down at sides. Leader, called "Paree-Glookh", is at R and waves a handkerchief with free hand over the head throughout the dance.

Music: 2/4 changing to 6/8 Pattern

Meas **Figure I**

- 1 Moving sideways, step R to R (ct 1) step L behind (ct 2)
- 2 Step R to R (ct 1), touch L toe beside R (ct 2)
- 3 Put L in front of R turned slightly left and bend knees (ct 1), double-bounce (ct 2 &)
- 4 With both feet still on floor, bend knees again (ct 1), slight hop on L in place as R lifts behind (ct 2)

Variation Figure I

- 1-2 Same as Figure I measures 1-2
- 3 Put L in front of R turned slightly left and bend knees (ct 1), scissor kick R & L with heels touching floor (ct 2 &)
- 4 Returning feet to floor, do Figure I measure 4

Do 4 Figure I, 4 Variation, 4 Figure I, 4 Variation.

Figure II (6/8)

- 1 Quickly switching arm hold to grasp shoulders of adjoining dancers, hop on L to R as R knee raises in front and R heel is pulled sharply behind to calf level (ct &) step R to R (ct 1) leap L across R (ct 2)
- 2 Hop on L slightly R (ct &), step R to R (ct 1), hop R in place as L ft kicks in front above floor (ct 2)
- 3 Hop on L in place as R ft kicks fwd with heel touching floor in front of L (ct 1), step on R beside L (ct 2)
- 4 Hop on R slightly L (ct &), step L to L (ct 1), hop L in place as R kicks ahead above floor (ct 2)

Do Figure II 12 times; the 12th time, meas 4 ends with: hop L in place while raising R knee waist high and yelling "hey!" (ct 2)