

Loorke

This dance was brought by Armenian immigrants from ancient western Armenia, from the town of Kharpehrt near the region of Vahspooragan. The "Kharpehrtsee", as the Armenians from this town were called would dance their famous "Halay" or "Kocharee" immediately following Loorke. The dance was learned by Tom Bozigian in his youth during the 1950s from Armenian immigrants at social gatherings in Fresno, California.

Translation: Shake

Pronunciation: loor-KEH

Formation: Short mixed lines facing ctr with pinkies joined at shldr ht (W pos).

Meter: 2/4

Dance starts immediately - No introduction

Meas

Figure I

- 1-2 Facing ctr with arms in W pos-bend (flex) knees 4 tmes with ft together (cts 1,2, 1,2)
- 3 With wt on both heels, move toes R - arms "Mahkreech" L (ct 1); move toes to face ctr-arms W pos (ct 2)
- 4 Repeat meas 3 with opp directions
- 5 Step R in front of L - arms "Mahkreech" R (ct 1); step L back to place (ct &); step R in place, hands W pos (ct 2)
- 6 Repeat meas 5 with opp ftwk and direction
- 7 Turning to face ctr-step R to R - arms lower to V pos (ct 1); step L behind R (ct 2)
- 8 Step R to R - arms return to W pos (ct 1); step L across R (ct 2)

Repeat Figure I – done twice.

Makreech: (Bent arms move R & L or L & R)

With arms slightly fwd and at shoulder ht, they move sideward.

Figure II

- 1-2 Facing diag R with arms in V pos - beg L, do 2 "Krnkatap" fwd in LOD. (cts 1 & 2, 1 & 2)
- 3 Turning to face diag L-drop onto both ft in plié (L fwd of R) (ct 1); turning to face ctr - bounce twice on both ft (ct 2 &). (Kocharee with twist)
- 4 Repeat meas 3 (cts 1 2 &).
- 5 Repeat meas 3 ct 1 (ct 1); leap on L in place as R lifts bkwd - arms rise to W pos (ct 2)
- 6 Facing diag L - touch R heel fwd (straight leg) (ct 1); leap onto R where it touched as L lifts bkwd (ct 2)
- 7 Beg L, do 3 running steps while gradually turning to face R (LOD) – arms return to V pos (cts 1 & 2)

Repeat Figure II 3 times – do 4 times in all

Transition (4 meas)

- 1-4 Do measures 1,2,3,5 of Figure II

Repeat: Figure I, Figure II, & Transition

Krnkatap (krrnk-ah-TAHP): Hop-step-step. Moving forward LOD, hop on L as R heel touches forward on floor (ct 1) slight leap to R as L lifts backward (ct &) slight leap to L forward as R lifts backward (ct 2).

LOORKE

Loorke loorke

skhahtoome loorke

- 1 Choomah moorah ahpooruh bekin
skhahtoome loorke
- 2 Seeroon ahghcheek shahd mee shahrzheh
Hai loorke loorke