

Atzay Hatsaftsafot

(Israel)

By dancers who enjoy both International and Israeli dancing, this is sometimes called the Israeli Vossarul because of the opening combination of steps.

Choreographer: Yankele Levy (1975)

Translation: Poplar Trees (literally “Whistling Trees”)

Pronunciation: aht-SAY haht-sahf-sah-FOHT

Music: *Israeli Dances Stockton 2006*, Band 3.

4/4 meter

Formation: Couples in a circle facing CCW. Either open Shoulder-Waist position or simple inside handhold (both are common).

Cts

Pattern

I. WALK, PIVOT, WALK, ROCK IN PLACE

- 1-4 Four steps fwd (LOD) starting with outside ft.
- 5-8 Four pivot steps as a cpl, starting with outside ft. Cpl rotates CW while continuing overall movement in LOD. Position: either Closed Shoulder-Waist pos or Ballroom pos.
- 9-12 Take open Shoulder-Waist Position and repeat 1-4.
- 13-14 Rock fwd onto outside foot and back onto inside foot.
- 15-16 Repeat cts 13-14.
- 17-32 Repeat cts 1-16.
- 33-64 Repeat cts 1-32.

II. TURN AWAY FROM PARTNER AND TURN BACK

- 1-3 Moving away from ptr, M does 3-step turn to L twd ctr of circle (L-R-L) and W does 3-step turn to R away from ctr (R-L-R).
- 4 Clap hands.
- 5-8 Repeat cts 1-4 reversing ftwk and direction of movement, but turn 1/4 more. End facing ptr (M facing out; W facing in).

III. SWAY; THREE-STEP TURN

- 1 Sway to LOD (M to L; W to R), bending knee.
- 2-4 Turn to RLOD (M to R; W to L) three steps.
- 5-8 Repeat cts 1-4.

SEQUENCE:

A, B, C

A (Counts 1-32 only), B, C, C

A, B, C

A (Counts 1-32 only), B, C, C

In other words, when Fig A is the full length, C is only done once; if only half of A is done, then C is done twice. Once you become familiar with the music, you don't have to keep track of the sequence.

Atzay Hatsaftsafot—continued

Song Lyrics

Atzei Hatzafot

Atzei hatzafot sharim lach shir al derech.
 Atzei hatzafot hayu gvohim, gvohim.
 Ve kol ga'agu'einu lach hayu leteref
 Uleshuvlech asher hitzit et hadsha'im.
 Ve kohl ga'agu'einu lach hayu leteref
 Uleshuvlech asher hitzit et hadsha'im.

Chorus

Ba'afarim ein ketz, adom oleh hastav.
 Noshrim alei-ha'etz kedinarei zahav.
 Verak ha'ahavot shavot lechan bastav.

Harakavot nas'u vehamsila reika hi,
 Ve'at ke'ayala ovedet bamishol.
 Zezer shel narkisim hen shesh-esrei shnotayich,
 Asher gam'u mital ha'erev hakachol.
 Zezer shel narkisim hen shesh-esrei shnotayich,
 Asher gam'u mital ha'erev hakachol.

[Chorus]

Hachasidot porchot mitoch breichot hamayim,
 Hachasidot parsu knafayim shel Shabbat.
 Verak hashir kasum el shesh-esrei shnotayich
 Notar po vezocher shalechet umabat.
 Verak hashir kasum el shesh-esrei shnotayich
 Notar po vezocher shalechet umabat.

[Chorus]

The Poplar Trees

The poplar trees sing you a song on the road.
 The poplar trees were tall, very tall.
 And all our longings for you were in vain
 And for the train of your dress, which set fire to the grass.
 And all our longings for you were in vain
 And for the train of your dress, which set fire to the grass.

Chorus

In the endless dust, the autumn rises red.
 The leaves fall like golden coins (dinars)
 And only love returns here in the fall.

The trains have gone and the track is empty,
 And you are like a lost doe on the path.
 Your sixteen years are a wreath of narcissus,
 Which drank from the dew of the blue evening.
 Your sixteen years are a wreath of narcissus,
 Which drank from the dew of the blue evening.

[Chorus]

The storks fly out from the ponds;
 The storks spread their Shabbat wings.
 And only the song enchanted with your sixteen years
 Remains here and remembers autumn and the sight of you.
 And only the song enchanted with your sixteen years
 Remains here and remembers autumn and the sight of you.

[Chorus]

Presented by Loui Tucker