

Chalomot

(Israel)

This dance is what many dance leaders call a “wall-clearer” because, no matter how late in the evening it is played, no matter how tired everyone appears to be, *everyone* gets up on the dance floor for Chalomot and sighs with satisfaction at the end. Choreographer: Gadi Biton (2003). The name translates as “Dreams.”

Pronunciation: hah-loh-MOHT

Music: *Israeli Dances Stockton 2006*, Band 8.

4/4 meter

Formation: Circle of dancers, all facing center. Hands free, not joined with other dancers.

Steps: See Israeli Glossary.

Cts

Pattern

I. WALK TOWARD CENTER, TURN AND FACE OUT; WALK TOWARD EDGE, TURN AND FACE IN

- 1-2 Facing ctr, slow step on R toward ctr, raising arms open above head slightly to R.
- 3-4 Slow step on L twd ctr, moving raised hands to L.
- 5-8 R Cherkassiya.
- 9-10 Two step (R-L) to turn half to the R to face away from ctr.
- 11-16 Double Cherkassiya beginning open to R, step on L crossing in front of R, etc.
- 17-32 Repeat cts 1-16 facing out and ending facing in.

II. MOVING CCW WITH WALKING AND TURNING

- 1-2 Step sideways on R to R and hold on Count 2 while lifting L to the side.
- 3-5 Step on L behind R, step on R to R, step on L crossing in front of R.
- 6 Touch R next to L.
- 7-8 Two steps (R-L) to make a full turn R.
- 9-12 Facing ctr, step on R to R; step on L crossing behind R; step on R to R; turn 1/4 to face CCW and hold on ct 12.
- 13-16 With L shldr to the ctr, L Cherkassiya in place (beg L fwd).
- 17-18 Step fwd on L; touch R next to L.
- 19-20 Two steps (R-L) to make a full turn R.

III. SIDE; LIFT; DOUBLE CHERKASSIYA

- 1-3 Step sideways on R to R and hold on ct 2 while lifting L to the side; step on L across behind R.
- 4-8 Step on R to R; step on L across in front of R; step back onto R in place; step on L to L; step on R across in front of L (five counts of a double cherkassiya).
- 9-16 Repeat cts 1-8 in the opp direction with the opp ftwk.

Chalomot—continued

IV. SIDE; CROSS; DOUBLE TURN

- 1-2 Sway R to R; sway L to L.
 3-4 Step on R in front of L, step back on L in place.
 5-8 Two complete turns R (CW) with four steps (R-L-R-L).

SEQUENCE: Dance is done three times through as noted above. Ending is Fig I, cts 1-4, done twice and then stand facing ctr with hands raised for the final notes of music.

Song Words

ChalomotChorus:

Chalomot shel etmol hem
 Shalhavot nir adot
 Lo yachol kol hachoshech, lechabot
 Al matsa hashalechet
 Hachalomot melachashim
 Rak prachim meyvashim
 Dohim bein hadafim.

Chorus:

Al tasev et panecha
 Ata maleh dvarim kmusim
 Al tagif et hatrisim
 Chapes, bein hamilim

Chorus:

Shir baderech elecha
 nirkam besavlanut ein ketz
 Hen tikach ute'ametz oto, el levavcha

DreamsChorus:

Yesterday's dreams are
 As trembling flames.
 All the darkness is not able to put them out.
 On the bedding of fallen leaves
 The dreams are whispering.
 Only dry flowers
 Fade between the leaves.

Chorus:

Don't turn your face away
 You are full of hidden things.
 Don't shut away the blinds
 Look, between the words.

Chorus:

A song, on it's way to you,
 is embroidered with endless patience
 You can take it and hug it close to your heart

Remember that the "CH" in Hebrew is pronounced like a hard "H" – as if you were clearing your throat.

Presented by Loui Tucker