

Hagashashim (Israel)

Hagashashim (hah-gah-shah-SHEEM) means the Scouts (pathfinders, trackers). This is a courting dance with the man in pursuit of the woman. It was choregraphed by Eliyahu Gamiel, and is danced to a Mediterranean-styled melody. Ya'akov Eden presented the dance at the 1980 University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp.

RECORD: Blue Star Y113 Side B/2 2/4 meter

FORMATION: Couples in a single circle with W to R of M, both facing ctr. Open hands at the small of the back, one over the other, palms out.

STEPS: Two-step*, run*, leap*, buzz*.

STYLING: As this is a dance of courtship, eye contact is essential.

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MUSIC 2/4 PATTERN

Measures

1-2 INTRODUCTION Begin dance with vocal

I. TWO STEP

M looks at ptr meas 1 thru 4 while W looks over her L shldr at ptr during meas 1 and 3.

1 Beg R, two-step in LOD, R shldr leading. (cts 1,&,2); pivot CW on R ft so L shldr leads (ct &). W pivots less than M, she almost faces LOD.

2 Repeat meas 1 with opp ft and shldr.

3 Face ctr, step on R to R (ct 1); step on L behind R (ct 2).

4 Face LOD; take 2 steps fwd R,L (cts 1,2).

5-16 Repeat meas 1-4 three more times.

The tempo increases each time.

II. RUN

1-2 All join hands down in 'V' pos. Run 4 steps fwd in LOD R,L,R,L (cts 1,2,1,2).

3 Face ctr, leap sdwd R on R raising arms to shldr level (ct 1). Step on L behind R (ct 2).

4 Face LOD, run 2 steps fwd in LOD R,L bringing arms back down to 'V' pos (cts 1,2).

5-12 Repeat meas 1-4 twice. On ct 2 of meas 12 stop abruptly and release hands. L ft is ahead of R.

Tempo now becomes very slow.

13 W pivot half CCW on L ft at beg of meas; ptrs are now facing. Step on R to R, extending hands fwd at face level with elbows bent (ct 1); hold (ct 2).

14 Close L to R, no wt, bend knees, bring hands close together (or cross wrists), snap fingers (ct 1); hold (ct 2).

15-16 Repeat meas 13-14 with opp ftwk and direction.

III. TURNS

Tempo again accelerates.

- 1 M turn 1/4 CW and move away from ctr while W turn 1/4 CW and move twd ctr, move fwd with a two-step beg R ft (cts 1,&,2), stretching hands fwd head high, palms twd body.
- 2 Turn 1/2 CCW, beg L move fwd with a two-step (cts 1,&,2) (M now moving twd ctr, W away from ctr). Hands remain high.
- 3 Passing ptr by R shldr step on R fwd (ct 1); step on L fwd turning 1/2 CW to face ptr (ct 2).
- 4 Step bkwd on R leaving L in place, bringing hands down to side (ct 1); step fwd onto L (ct 2).
- 5 Beg on R, two-step twd ptr (ct 1,&,2), extending hands twd ptr at waist level.
- 6 Beg on L, two-step twd ptr (cts 1,&,2).
- 7-8 Beg on R, take 4 small steps twd ptr (cts 1,2,1,2). Adjust steps to arrive at ptr with R shldrs adjacent at end of meas 8.
- 9-12 As cpl, with R arm around ptr waist and L arm curved high, turn CW with 8 running steps.
- 13-15 In same pos continue CW turn with 6 buzz steps. End in an abrupt stop with M facing ctr on meas 15 ct 2. M step L in place releasing ptr while W pivots 1/2 CW on L to face ctr (ct &). Rejoin hands in 'V' pos.

IV. INTERLUDE

Tempo is now very slow.

- 1 Step on R to R (ct 1); touch L beside R (ct 2).
- 2 Step on L to L (ct 1); touch R beside L (ct 2).

Repeat dance from beg. The dance is done thru 3 times. On the third time continue the buzz turn of Fig III meas 13-15 until end of music.