

1969 SAN DIEGO STATE COLLEGE FOLK DANCE CONFERENCE

Presented by: Vilma Matchette

HALEH
Armenia

Pronounced: Hah-leh

The Haleh (AKA: Halay, Halai, Halli) has been described historically as having gone through a period when it was known as a men's dance followed by a period when women joined as a group on the end of the line. More recently women have mixed with the men. This version was learned by Vilma Matchette from the San Francisco Armenian Community.

MUSIC: Record (LP): THE SEVENTH VEIL, KL-1090, Side 1, Band 3,
"The Dance of Van" (Haleh)

FORMATION: Open circle of mixed men and women, leader at R end, hands joined with fingers interlocked and held down.

STEPS AND STYLING: Women dance with ft closer together than the men. There is no set order to the variations -- they are listed only by type for ease in reconstruction -- which are done at the discretion of the leader.

MUSIC: 2/4

PATTERN

Measures

1-8 INTRODUCTION: No action.

BASIC DANCE

1 Step swd R (ct 1),
Step L in back of R (ct 2).

2 Step swd R with L remaining in place (ct 1),
Bounce on R (ct 2),
Bounce on R (ct &).

3 Shift wt to L with R remaining in place (ct 1),
Bounce onto R (ct 2),
Bounce on R (ct &).

4 Shift wt to L (ct 1),
Bounce on L (ct 2),
Bounce on L (ct &).

Repeat basic dance from beginning.

(Cont'd)

Haleh (Cont'd)

VARIATION I (Knee-Swivel)

- 1-2 Repeat action of meas 1-2 of basic dance, closing ft together on bounces.
- 3 Bending knees to L, Swivel knees CW (ct 1),
Straighten knees (ct 2).
- 4 Repeat action of meas 3, Variation I.

VARIATION II (Knee-Bend)

- 1-2 Repeat action of meas 1-2 of basic dance, closing ft together on bounces.
- 3 Bend knees to L, as body leans bwd in such a manner that a straight line could be drawn from the knee through the body and out the top of the head (ct 1),
Straighten knees as body returns upright (ct 2).
- 4 Repeat action of meas 3, Variation II.

VARIATION III (Men Only)

- 1-3 Repeat action of meas 1-3 of basic dance.
- 4 Step swd L as R swings across in front of L; knee bent (ct 1),
Bounce on L as R remains in front (ct 2),
Bounce on L as R remains in front (ct &).

NOTE: Previously, after a period of fast music had occurred, the men separated from the line led by the first man and they did Variation III with vigor. The first woman lead the women's line in the basic dance or Variation I, etc.