

HEENG OO MEG - means "Five and One"
Armenia

SOURCE: During the mid 1950's and even before, interest on Armenian folk dance and song increased tremendously among the first and second generation Armenian-Americans. Orchestras were formed throughout the major Armenian communities of the U.S. and as increase in weekend functions (dances, picnics) developed. In reality, the Armenian youth realized the rich culture their immigrant parents had brought. This realization occurred among other ethnic groups also. However, by the mid-50's, as a result of the immigrants' growing old, unfortunately many original dances had dissolved. What evolved, then, was the creation of a series of dances using many original steps fitted to older, traditional folk melodies and even songs. HEENG OO MEG was one of those dances. Others were "Sweet Girl," "California Hop," "Armenian Turn," "Detroit Hop," "New York Shuffle," "Guneega," etc. These dances have now become standard at most Armenian gatherings and done to a wide variety of melodies, even newly-written ones.

RECORD: "Tom Bozigian Presents Songs and Dances of the Armenian People," Volume II, GT 4001.

FORMATION: Mixed line dance with the leader at R and dancers facing center with little fingers grasped at above shoulder height and away from chest.

MUSIC: 6/8 PATTERN

Measure VARIATION I (sometimes called "California Hop" and can be danced with shoulder hold)

- 1 Facing slightly LOD, step R to R (cts. 1-3); step L across R (cts. 4-6).
- 2 Facing ctr., step R across L (cts. 1-3); hop Bkwd, on R as L heel lifts behind, knee frwd. (cts. 4-6).
- 3 Step bkwd. on L (cts. 1-3); step R to R (cts. 4-6).
- 4 Moving LOD, step L across R (cts. 1-2); step R beside L (ct. 3); step L across R (cts. 4-6). NOTE: Meas. 4 is running "Two-step."
- 5 Step R to R (cts. 1-3); kick L across R (cts. 4-6).
- 6 Step L in pl. (cts. 1-3); kick R across L (cts. 4-6).

VARIATION II - Five and One

- 1-4 Facing diag. LOD, with little fingers grasped and down at side Step R ahead (cts. 1-2); step L ahead of R (ct. 3); step R ahead of L (cts. 4-6). Do this Armenian two-step four times.

NOTE: The two step is a very important item in the Armenian dance vocabulary and is present in many line and solo patterns. Several ct. values are evident as, for example, in the 6/8 tempo which is described above and in meas. 4. There are also other vari-

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ations of the two-step which differ in ct. value, stress, and style-application. The 2/4 meter also utilizes this step. It's probably one of the first steps as Armenian youngster learns.

- 5 Facing ctr., step R in pl., as grasped little fingers raise to shoulder height and forearms bend to slightly R (cts. 1-2); step L in pl. (ct.3); step R in pl. as L kicks in front above fl. (cts. 4-6).
- 6 Repeat Var. II, meas. 5, with opp. ftwk., direction, and arm movements (cts. 1-6).
- 7 Moving slightly frwd., repeat ftwk, of Var. II, meas. 5 as grasped fingers are lowered again to side (cts. 1-6)
- 8 Moving slightly bkwd., repeat ftwk. of Var. II, meas. 5 as grasped fingers are raised once agin to shoulder height(cts. 1-6).
- 9 Facing ctr, step sdwd. R as forearms bend R (cts. 1-3); close L to R as forearms bend L(cts. 4-6).
- 10 Repeat Var. II, meas. 9, cts. 1-3 (cts. 1-3);slight hop R in pl. touching L beside R (cts. 4-6).
- 11 Moving Bkwd., step on L, pivoting on R heel to turn toes out about 45 degrees while forearms bend L (cts. 1-3); repeat this meas., cts. 1-3 with opp. ftwk. and direction of arms (cts. 4-6).
- 12 Repeat Var. II, meas. 11, cts. 1-3 (cts. 1-3); repeat Var. II, meas. 10, cts. 4-6 (cts. 4-6).

Notation by Tom Bozigan

MUSIC:

MEASURE

1 Facing slightly fwd, step R to R (cts. 1-3); step L across R (cts. 4-6).

2 Facing ctr., step R across L (cts. 1-3); hop bkwd. on R as L foot lifts behind, knee level (cts. 4-6).

3 Step bkwd. on L (cts. 1-3); step to R (cts. 4-6).

4 Moving fwd, step L across R(ctr. 1-3); step R beside L(ct.3); step L across R (cts. 4-6); NOTE: knee & is turning "two-step".

5 Step R to R (cts. 1-3); kick R across R (cts. 4-6).

6 Step L in pl. (cts. 1-3); kick R across L(cts. 4-6).

VARIATION II - Five and One

1-4 Facing dist. fwd, with little fingers grasped and down at side Step R ahead (cts. 1-3); step L ahead of R(ctr.3);step R ahead of L(ctr. 4-6). Do this Armenian two-step four times.

NOTE: The two step is a very important item in the Armenian dance vocabulary and is present in many line and solo patterns. Several ct. values are evident as, for example, in the 5/8 tempo which is described above and in meas. 4. There are also other vari-