

## Hora Bialick

(Israel)

"Bialik's Hora" is of Chassidic origin. The Chassidim are an intensely religious sect of Jews from Eastern Europe. Their belief is that song and dance are intimately involved with prayer. There are few "set" dances; rather, most dancing is free and spontaneous. Those dances with specific patterns were choreographed in the Chassidic flavour. Hora Bialick was choreographed by Yoav Ashriel, and learned from Bracha Dudian and Ayella Goren in Jerusalem by Karen Uretsky-Hering in 1967. Chaim Nachman Bialik was a famous Hebrew poet.

Record: "Dance Israel" - Dancecraft 123301  
"Panorama" - Tikva 140

Formation: Circle dance, joined hands, facing center.

Styling: The dancers use their movements to communicate with God. Their arms and eyes are raised heavenward. Once dancing, they are oblivious to the material world around them, and concern themselves only with the ecstasy of song and dance. Generally all Chassidic dances are simple and quite monotonous. However, the internal mood and expression of the dancer make the dances beautiful for those involved.

### Measure      Pattern

#### Part I

- 1      Step on L across R, leaning fwd from waist (ct 1). Step on R to R, raising body and arms overhead (ct 2).  
2-5    Repeat measure 1 four times (5 in all).

#### Part II

Facing and moving CCW.

- 1      Run fwd 3 steps, starting with L, (ct 1) and hop on L to face ctr (ct &).  
2      Turn to RLOD. Run bkwd 3 steps: R, L, R (cts 1-2), and hop on R turning to face CCW.  
3-4    Repeat measures 1-2, Part II.  
Note:    Cts 1-2 constitute a schottische step.

#### Part III

Facing center of circle.

- 1      2 steps fwd twd center, raise arms slowly to shoulder level (cts 1-2).  
2      Cross L over R; step R to R; cross L over R.  
3      2 steps bkwd (out of center), lower arms slowly (cts 1-2).  
4      Cross R over L; step L to L; cross R over L.  
5-8    Repeat measures 1-4, Part III (cts 1-8).  
Note:    Part III forms a square pattern: fwd, side R, bkwd, side L.