Mesho Gorani

Western Armenia

This dance is from a region in the former area of western Armenia, now-a-days eastern Turkey. Gorani is derived from Khergour, the name of the mountain in Daron. Paylak Sarkisian taught this dance in 2003 on a tour in the Netherlands. The steps are based on a village dance in Armenia from Armenians that are descendants of people that migrated from Moush. The arm movements are an extension which was added. The hand movements are very general and can also be observed a parties done by women. This dance was presented by Tineke van Geel at the 2003 Stockton Folk Dance Camp.

TRANSLATION: Gorani from Moush

PRONUNCIATION: mush-OH gohr-ah-NEE

MUSIC: CD: Dances of Armenia, Compilation Van Geel Records, #6

FORMATION: Individuals in a mixed circle with everyone facing LOD. Arm are down by sides (not

joined).

STYLE: When hands are fwd, eyes focus on hands.

METER: 2/4 PATTERN

Meas.

INTRODUCTION: None or wait one phrase.

FIG. I: MOVE IN LOD

- Facing and moving in LOD upper body turn diag L (twd ctr) while making a bouncy step fwd on R (ct 1); bouncy step on ball of L ft beside R (ct &); bouncy step fwd on R (ct 2).

 Arms: R arm swings fwd (elbow straight) to approx chest ht with palm up (ct 1); hand rotates in twds body until palm is down (ct &); hand flips up with palm away from body (ct 2). L arm remains beside body.
- 2 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk and opp arm movement, while R arm (palm down) moves down beside body.
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2. End facing LOD with both arms beside body. (2 times total)

FIG. II: FACE CTR, FACE LOD

Turning to face diag L of ctr - do a small step sdwd twd ctr (ct 1); step L sharply beside R (no wt) (ct 2).

Arms: Both arms move up and fwd (parallel pos) to chest ht, palms up (ct 1); with elbows bent and arms fwd in front of body, turn palms of both hands turn in twd body then palms down with wrists bent down (ct &); hands flip up quickly (with accent), palms away from body (ct 2).

- 2 Step L bkwd to orig pos (face LOD) (ct 1); close R beside L (ct 2). Arms: Lower both arms to side with palms down (cts 1-2).
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2. (2 times total)

Original notes by Tineke van Geel R&S'd from observation and video by Dorothy Daw 8-03

Presented by Loui Tucker Camp Hess Kramer Institute October 17-19, 2003