

Ara

(Eastern Mediterranean —Anatolian Inspired)

This dance was composed by Steve Kotansky based on steps and kinetic motifs from the Balkan - Anatolian dance vernacular. The music was composed by Ara Dinkjian, an Armenian — American composer and oud player. Ara's original recording with his group *Night Ark* was titled *Homecoming* and is based on an eastern Anatolian melodic structure. Later, this melody was used by the Greek singer Eleftheria Arvanitaki for her big hit *Dinata/Dynata*. Ara has helped my son Jesse with his music and is his Oud teacher, and I can't get this melody out of my head, so I had to create this dance.

Music: Festival 2008 CD

Formation: Open circle with a "W" handhold.

METER: 2/4

PATTERN

Meas

Part I

- 1 Facing slightly R of center, Step Rft fwd (ct 1); Step Lft fwd (ct 2); (These steps have a slight bounce to them).
- 2 Step Rft fwd (ct 1); Step Lft fwd and slightly behind Rft (ct 2); Step Rft fwd (ct &);
- 3 Step Lft fwd and begin to turn to face center (ct 1); Hop on Lft and extend Rft fwd and low continuing turn to face center (ct 2); Hop on Lft again and face center (ct &);
- 4 Step Rft fwd to center (ct 1); Bounce on Rft and lift Lft up slightly behind R ankle (L knee bent slightly) (ct 2)
- 5 Step Lft back away from center (ct 1); Step Rft back (ct 2);
- 6 Step Lft slightly back (ct 1); Step Rft to R sinking onto it slightly (ct 2); Step Lft in place (ct &);
- 7 Step Rft across and in front of Lft (ct 1); Hop on Rft and extend Lft fwd and low and turn to face R of center (ct 2); Hop on Rft again (ct &);
- 8 Step Lft fwd in LOD (ct 1). Bounce on Lft and lift Rft up and behind L ankle (ct 2);
- 9-16 Repeat action of meas 1-8 above.

Part II

- 1 Facing center, Step Rft to R side with a slight accent (ct 1); Step Lft behind Rft (ct 2); Step Rft to R (ct &);
- 2 Step Lft across and in front of Rft (ct 1); Step Rft to R (ct 2); Step Lft in front of Rft (ct &);
- 3 Step Rft fwd slightly toward center (ct 1); Step Lft slightly behind Rft (ct &); Step Rft slightly back (ct 2); Step Lft in front of Rft (ct &);
- 4 Repeat action of meas 3 of Part II continuing to move to R. Arms reflect a movement by moving slightly up and down.
- 5-6 Repeat action of meas 1-2 of Part II.
- 7 Step Rft to R sinking on it slightly (ct 1); Step Lft to L (ct 2); Step Rft in front of Lft (ct &); This is a Yemenite-like step.
- 8 Reverse action of meas 7 (Yemenite L).
- 9-16 Repeat action of meas 1-8 of Part II.

Part III

- 1 Moving fwd toward center, Step Rft fwd (ct 1); Step Lft fwd (ct 2); Step Rft fwd (ct &);
- 2 Continuing toward center repeat action of meas 1 with opposite ftwk
- 3 Repeat action of meas 7 (Yemenite R) of Part II
- 4 Releasing hands and turning 180° to R (CW), Step Lft fwd (ct 1); Turn and Step Rft fwd (ct 2); Step Lft beside Rft (ct &);
- 5-7 Repeat action of meas 1-4 of Part III moving out and away from center to finish ready to start the dance from the beginning.

P.S. Dance is subject to change.

Presented by Stephen Kotansky at the Laguna Folkdancers Festival 2008