

GARIN TAMZARA

TAMZARA was widespread throughout much of Western Armenia with many different regional variations, and is easily recognized by its characteristically Anatolian 9/8 rhythm. TAMZARA is distinct as one of the few Armenian dances done by mixed groups in some areas, that did not use "Armenian hold". This traditional version of the dance, performed by the Armenians of Garin (Erzerum), does use "Armenian hold". Unlike the couple or trio versions, the line TAMZARAS usually have a set pattern.

Source: Arsen Anoushian, John Yervant, Hasmig Aroian.

Music: Traditional Armenian Dances by Arsen Anoushian

Style: Strong heavy movements, erect carriage.

Formation: Open circle dance in "Armenian hold" (little fingers interlocked with hands held at shoulder height). The leader can hold a handkerchief in his left hand, between himself and the second dancer. The leader can then embellish the dance with squats, etc., similar to the Greek practice. (note...this is the only Armenian dance that we know, that follows this practice. Perhaps it reflects Greek influence on the dance).

<u>Meas.</u>	<u>Ct.</u>	<u>Movements</u>
1	1-4	<u>PART A</u> ...In place, with R forward, point R to left diagonal by pivoting it, with heel remaining on floor (ct 1). Point R to front, by pivoting it (ct 2). Repeat (cts 3,4). Pause (ct a).
2	1-4	<u>PART B</u> ...Moving forward, step forward on R (ct 1). Lift L beside right calf as hop on R (ct 2). Step forward on L (ct 3). Stamp R beside L (ct 4). Pause (ct a).
3	1-4	<u>PART C</u> ...Moving backward, step back on R (ct 1). Lift L (ct 2). Step back on L to left diagonal (ct 3). Step back on R behind L (ct 4). Pause (ct a).
4	1-4	<u>PART D</u> ...Moving to the right, step back on L (ct 1). Lift R (ct 2). Step R to right (ct 3). Step L behind R as "quiver" R to front (ct 4). "Quiver" R again (ct a).

Note...The standard pattern is AAABCDBCDBCDBCDCD...

© 1978 by Gary Lind-Sinanian, Folk Arts Center of New England, Inc.