

MEDAX TASHGINAG

Armenia

Source: In 1915, because of religious and political differences in Western Armenia, from 1 1/2 to 2 million Armenians were massacred by the Ottoman Turks. A diaspora (dispersion) resulted, and hundreds of thousands Armenian found new homes in other parts of the world. Discovering similar homeland conditions in Fresno, California, thousands of Armenians elected to make this town their home away from home. The Fresno Armenian community has, through the decades, continued to thrive through its pride in the preservation of the Armenian language, the history, the songs and the dances. Medax Tashginag was brought to Fresno by Armenian immigrants from YERINGA in the region of KARIN, Western Armenia (now in eastern Turkey.) It was originally one of a list of dances, from Yerzinga researched and collected by Francis Ajoian of Fresno, California. The title means "Silk Handkerchief", a very important item in the Armenian women's folk apparel.

CD : Best of Tom Bozigian, Song & Dances of the Armenian People, Vol. 1
Formation: Line dance utilizing little finger hold at shoulder height with dancers facing ctr. and leader at L end.(Note: The "W" Armenian arm pos. finds fingers or hands grasped at around shoulder height and slightly beyond shoulder width apart with the wrists in a plane beyond that of the elbows.)

Rhythm: 4/4

Measure

- 1 Step L sdwd., to L as hip and torso twist slightly R and R and forearms bend parallel to L simulating windshield wiper (ct.1) close R to L as L toe pivots off floor slightly L and arms, hip, & torso repeat opp. action of ct.1 (ct.2); repeat cts. 1-2 of meas 1 (cts. 3-4)
- 2 Repeat cts. 1-2. meas. 1 (cts. 1-2); step bkwd. on L as arms, hips and torso repeat action of ct. 1 meas. 1 (ct.3); hop slightly L in pl. (heel only leaves fl.) as R knee raises in front with R ft. above fl. and across L (ct.4).
- 3 Repeat meas. 1, cts. 1-4 but with opp. dir., body motion, and ftwk. (cts. 1-4).
- 4 Closing ft. and knees together make demi-plie maintaining erect torso as arms lower to side (cts.-1-2) straighten legs as arms return to original pos. (cts. 3-4).
- 5 Moving center, step fwd. on R as arms begin lowering once again (cts. 1-2); continue fwd. on L as arms lower to side (cts.3-4).
- 6 Stamp R (no wt.) beside L as arms return to orig. pos.(ct 1) kick R ft fwd. above fl., hopping slightly on L in pl. (ct.,2); Step bkwd, on R (ct.3); repeat action of meas. 2, ct. 4 but with opp. ftwk (ct.4)
- 7 Repeat action of meas. 2, cts. 1-4 (cts. 1-4)
- 8 Repeat action of meas. 2, cts. 1-4, but with opp. dir, ftwk. and arm, hip, and torso motion (cts. 1-4)

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Medax tashginagus kez gu nuveerem
Keesher tsoreg yes koo seerov gu mashem

Akh yeranee yes kez desa chullayee
Keesher tsoreg meetkus khaghagh baheyee

Ankoot aghcheek eenchoo kovus heratsar
Seerdus seerdus godrestseer oo heratsar

Amen aden yes kez gu heeshem
Seerdus khoren akhoovakh gu kashem

Presented by Tom Bozigian