

MEDAX TASHGINAG

Armenia

SOURCE:

In 1915, because of religious and political differences in Western Armenia, from 1½ to 2 million Armenians were massacred by the Ottoman Turks. A diaspora (dispersion) resulted, and hundreds of thousands Armenians 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 Yeringa researched and collected by Frances Ajoian of Fresno, California. The title means "Silk Handkerchief", a very important item in the Armenian women's folk apparel.

RECORD:

"Tom Bozigian Presents Songs and Dances of the Armenian People," Volume II, GT 4001.

FORMATION:

Line dance utilizing little finger hold at shoulder height with dancers facing ctr. and leader at L end. (NOTE: The "W" Armenian arm position 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.)

MUSIC:

4/4

PATTERN

Measure

- 1 Step L sdwd. to L as hip and torso twist slightly R and R fore-arms bend parrell to L (simulating windshield wiper) (ct.1); close R to L as L toe pivots off fl. slightly L and arms, hip, and 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 (ct.4).
- 3 Repeat meas. 1, cts. 1-4, but with opp. direction, body motion, and ftwk. (cts. 1-4).
- 4 Closing ft. and knees together, make a demi-plie, maintaining erect torso as arms lower to side (cts. 1-2); straighten legs as arms return to orig. pos. (cts. 3-4).
- 5 Moving ctr., step frwd. on R as arms begin lowering once again (cts. 1-2); continue frwd. 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 frwd. 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).

(cont.)

Measure

- 7 Repeat action of meas. 2, cts. 1-4 (cts. 1-4).
- 8 Repeat action of meas. 2, cts. 1-4, but with opp. direction, ftwk., amd arm, hip and torso motion (cts. 1-4).

Notation by Tom Bozigian

MEDAX TASHGINAG

Silk Handkerchief

MEDAX TASHGINAGUS KEZ GU NUVEEREM
KEESHER TSOREG YES KOO SEEROV GU MASHEM

I want to give you as a gift a silk handkerchief
Day and night my live for you is overwhelming

AKH YERANEE YES KEZ DESA CHULLAYEE
KEESHER TSOREG MEETKUS KHAGHAGH BAHEYEE

How I wish I had never seen you
So that day and night I could have peace of mind

ANKOOT AGHCHEEK EENCHOO KOVUS HERATSAR
SEERDUS SEERDUS GODRETSEER OO HERATSAR

Unmerciful girl, why did you leave me
Why did you leave me and break my heart

AMEN ADEN YES KEZ GUHEESHAM
SURDEES KHOREN AKHOOVAKH GU KASHEM

I think of you every time
My heart gives a sigh

ՄԵՏԱՐ ԹԱՇԳԻՆԱԿ

**Մետաքս թաշքինակս քեզ կը նոււիրեմ
Գիշեր ցորեկ ես քու սիրով կը մաշեմ**

**Ախ երանի ես քեզ տեսած չըլլայի
Գիշեր ցորեկ միտքս խաղաղ պահէի**

**Անգուժ աղջիկ ինչու քովէս հեռացար
Սիրտս, սիրտս կոտորեցիր ու հեռացար**

**Ամէն ատեն ես քեզ կը յիշեմ
Սրտիս խորէն ախ ու վախ կը քաշեմ:**