

SASOONASHENTSEEArmenia

SOURCE: Sasoonashen is the name of a village in the western part of Soviet Armenia and is in the district of TALEEN, northwest of YEREVAN. "TSEE," which is generally written at the end of a town or village name, means "person from." SASOONASHEN and another nearby village named ASHNAX were two target areas on Tom Bozigian's research itinerary while he was a dance student in Armenia during Spring, 1975. TALEEN is a district, very rich in song and dance and heavily populated with Armenians, whose original immigrants came from TARON-SASOON, Western (Anatolian) Armenia. A similar form of this dance was learned by Tom Bozigian in Fresno, California during the 1950's from original MOOSHETSEE Armenians who called the dance "MAEELLOORKE" or "MOOSH."

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

FORMATION: Mixed line dance with leader at L end and hands grasped at shoulder height with starting position facing center.

MUSIC: 2/4 **PATTERN**

Measure

- 1 Twisting body to face L, step R over L as L heel lifts sharply behind and while hands remain grasped, L hand lowers to front waist level and R hand to bk, waist level (ct.1); turning body to face ctr., step L in pl. as R extends fwd. off fl. while arms extend straight half way down (ct. 2).
- 2 Step sdwd. on ball of R(heel slightly elevated) as body leans R while straightened L leg extends sdwd. to L and above fl. and arms swing (to become straightened) down and behind body (ct.1); returning to upright pos., step L across R in plie as straight arms swing fwd. in front of body (ct.2).
- 3 Skip off L to R as L touches in pl. while straight arms swing once again behind body (ct.1); hop slightly on R in pl. as L heel lifts sharply behind, knee level (ct.2).
- 4 Dip on both ft. in pl. (shoulder width apart) with L ahead of R as arms return to starting pos. (ct.1); straighten knees to take wt. on R while L remains ahead on fl., no wt.(ct.2); hop on R in pl. but not leaving fl. as L ft. kicks ahead and above fl. (ct. and).
- 5 Repeat ftwk. of meas. 4, ct.1(ct.1); straighten to take wt. on R as L ft. kicks ahead and above fl. (ct.2).
- 6 Execute 3 single steps in pl., starting with L (L-R-L) as arms swing down to side and up once again to staring pos. while body turns to face diag. to L (cts. 1-and-2).
- 7 Moving L and raising grasped hands to above head level, hop ahead on L as R heel touches fl. in front(ct.1); leap ahead on R as L heel lifts behind (ct.and); leap ahead on L as R heel lifts behind (ct.2). This is "KERTSEE" step.
- 8 Execute one more "KERTSEE" step (cts. 1-and-2).

Notation by Tom Bozigian