

Shir Me Aba

(Israel)

Shir Me Aba was choreographed by Israel Yakovee to traditional Yemenite music. The song and dance reflect the feelings of a father telling his son about life. "Avoid evil and do good deeds, and God will reward you. Thank God for the bread and water."

Pronunciation:

Cassette: Israel Yakovee '93

Formation: Circle of dancer facing ctr, hands joined in V-pos.

Styling: In general, when there are 4 beats and 3 steps, move on the first 3 beats and pause on the 4th beat (step, step, step, hold). If there are just 2 steps for 4 beats, the steps are evenly spaced (step, hold, step, hold).

Cts

Pattern

INTRODUCTION. No action. Begin with vocal.

PART I

- 1-4 Three small sways in place R, L, R; pause (ct 4).
- 5-8 Step on L in front of R; pause (ct 6); touch R next to L; pause (ct 8).
- 9-12 Repeat cts 1-4.
- 13-16 Step on L across behind R; step on R to R; step on L across in front of R; pause (ct 16).
- 17-24 Yemenite R, Yemenite L facing ctr.
- 25-28 Step on R twd ctr and pivot 1/2 to L in place to end facing out while shifting wt onto the L.
- 29-32 Step fwd on R (away from ctr) and pivot 1/2 R, bringing L ft around and stepping on L next to R, ending facing ctr.
- 33-64 Repeat cts 1-32.

PART II. Hands remain held only on cts 1-10.

- 1-2 Step on R to R; pause (ct 2).
- 3-8 Dance 5 cts of grapevine, beginning on L crossing in front of R; pause (ct 8).
- 9-12 Yemenite R facing ctr, pivoting 1/2 L on the last step to end facing away from ctr; pause (ct 16).
- 13-14 Step on L next to R; pause (ct 14).
- 15-16 Touch R next to L and snap fingers; pause (ct 16).
- 17-32 Repeat cts 1-16, end facing ctr again.

Transition

- 1-4 Sway R, L; lift R in front of L, allowing R hand to follow R ft, motioning with palm up in a scooping motion.

Shir Me Aba—continued

PART III

- 1-2 Step on R in front of L.
 3-6 Step on L behind R; step on R to R; step on L in front of R; pause.
 7-8 Step on R next to L; pause (ct 8).
 9-12 Repeat cts 3-6.
 13-16 3-step turn to R (R, L,R), end facing ctr; pause (ct 16).
 17-20 Step o L to L (slight diagonal fwd) and click fingers at chest height on ct 19.
 21-24 Repeat cts 17-20 to opp side.
 25-26 Step on L to ctr, hands held palms down together and scoop upward twd ctr; pause (ct 26).
 27-30 3 steps bkwd (R,L,R); pause (ct 30).
 31-32 Step on L next to R and pivot 1/4 L so that R shldr is twd ctr; pause (ct 32).

PART IV. Twd ctr and out, hands not held.

- 1-4 Step-together-step twd ctr with 3 steps (R. L. R); pause (ct 4).
 5-8 step on L behind R; step on R to R; step on L in front of R; pause (ct 8).
 9-10 Step on R to R and pivot 1/4 to L to face out.
 11-12 Step fwd on L (away from ctr); pause (ct 12).
 13-16 Walk 3 steps (R, L, R) fwd (away from ctr); pause (ct 16).
 17-24 Repeat cts 17-24 of Part III (snaps to each diagonal).
 25-28 3 small steps (L, R, L) almost in place while turning 1/2 to L to face to ctr.
 29-32 Yemenite R facing ctr.

PART V

- 1-4 Repeat the transition but reverse ftwk and direction.
 5-16 Repeat Part III, cts 1-12, but reverse ftwk and direction.
 17-24 Repeat Part III, cts 17-24 (snaps to each diagonal). this is not reversed. Start to the L diagonal as before.
 25-30 Repeat Part III, cts 25-30 (scoop in and back out).
 31-34 Step on L next to R and hold; touch R next to L and hold.

Second time through the dance:

Part I is done once to the music without lyrics.
 Then do Parts I-V as before up to ct 30.
 Then repeat from the transition through Part V up to ct 31.
 End with:

- 1-8 Yemenite R; Yemenite L.
 9-10 Repeat Part III, cts 25-26 (scoop in).

Presented by Israel Yakovee

Shir Me Aba—continued

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Song by Avihu Medinah

Yoshev hoshev al aba kol shli amar

I am sitting and thinking about my father and all that he told me

Beshevet piv hikani moosar li masar

From his own wisdom the message he gave me

Yoshev hoshev ki aba tamim hyah va ham

In my mind, my father was a modest and warm person

Yashav levad im elohav ve im adam

He was always along with God and mankind

Vetov haya le aba ba derech ba bahar

And he was content with the way of his life

Vetorato botech emunato shamar

He trusted the torah and was faithful to his faith

Soor mera vase toy

Avoid evil and do good deeds

Baruch tihey shivatyim uschrcha la rov

You will be blessed forever and you will be rewarded

Barech el shamayim al lehem vamayim

Bless God for the bread and water

Kach amar li aba kam veyashav

So told my father to me

Yoshev hoshev al derech bh ani holech

I am thinking on the path that I close to myself

Hazo he derech melech sheba asarech

Is it a road to kingdom, the one I have chosen?

Haim he toveleni el ha tehila

Is this the road that will lead me to glory?

Haze ani movil haderech o he movilah

Is it I who lead the road, or it lead me?

Yoshev hosev al aba siman sheli natan

I am sitting and thinking about my father and the message he gave me

Simanim shel derech el eden hagan

The message that will lead me to heaven.