

Zarah

(Israel)

Choreography by Naftaly Kadosh (learned from Don Schillinger, August Camp 2004). Music by Ze'ev Nechama & Tamir Kalinsky.

Pronunciation: zah-RAH

CD:

4/4 meter

Formation: Couples facing in a circle, man facing out, woman facing in.

Steps and Styling: Cha Cha; 75% of the time it's "one, two, cha-cha, cha."

Flirtatious, expressive. Men and women are always on opposite feet; description is for man, woman does opposite. The dance is a "getting to know you" dance; first part you don't touch, second part hold hands; third part you are in each other's arms.

Meas

Pattern

INTRODUCTION. No action.

I. IDON'T KNOW YOU YET

Note: in all meas in Fig I, steps are SSQQS. For all turns 360° or more, "wind up" (twist in opp direction of turn) on previous beat. Use arms and upper body freely; no physical contact with ptr. W generally faces twd and moves with M. On full turns, W always turns opp of M (if he turns CW, she turns CCW) (she doesn't do the half turns).

- 1 M: Rock fwd on L (ct 1); rock back on R (ct 2); half turn CCW to face and move twd ctr, L-R-L (cts 3,&,4).
W: Rock back on R (ct 1); rock fwd on L (ct 2); R-L-R twd ctr (cts 3,&,4).
- 2 M: Full turn CW moving twd ctr, with R-L (cts 1,2); step R-L-R, moving twd ctr (cts 3,&,4).
W: Moves to ctr following ptr, turns CCW.
- 3 M: Stepping on L (twd ctr), half turn CW to face out (and to face ptr) (ct 1); moving out, step on R (ct 2); continue moving out with L-R-L (cts 3,&,4).
W: Step in (ct 1); step back (ct 2); still facing ctr (and ptr, no half turn), R-L-R backing up (cts 3,&,4).
- 4 M: Full turn CW, R-L, moving away from ctr (cts 1,2); R-L-R, facing out and moving away from ctr (cts 3,&,4). W: Moves away from ctr turning CCW full turn (cts 1,2); facing M, steps back away from ctr (cts 3,&,4).
Note: in meas 5-8, W mirrors M exactly.
- 5 M: Facing out, rock sideways in LOD on L (ct 1); rock sideways in RLOD on R (ct 2); facing and moving RLOD, step L-R-L (cts 3,&,4). Begin CCW turn on ct 4.
- 6 M: Still moving RLOD, complete 1 1/4 CCW turn, R-L, to end facing ptr (cts 1,2); moving RLOD, step side, together, side or R-L-R (cts 3,&,4).
- 7 M: Step on L across over R, turning to face RLOD (ct 1); rock back (in LOD) onto R to face ptr (ct 2); move in LOD and turn CCW to face LOD, L-R-L (cts 3,&,4).
- 8 M: Moving in LOD, turn 1 1/4 CW to end almost facing ptr R-L-R-L-R (cts 1,2,3,&,4).

Zarah—continued

II. WE ARE ACQUAINTED NOW

Note: Rhythm varies from SSQQS (as in Fig I) on every meas. Dance closer, but not too close.

- 1 M: Facing out and facing ptr, and holding both her hands, step fwd on L (ct 1); stepping back twd ctr on R, lead W fwd around yourself to your L and twd ctr (ct 2); back her twd ctr, L-R-L (cts 3,&,4). W: Steps opp M as she moves around him (CCW) and ends being backed twd ctr. Note: M, if not actually “throwing” the W twd ctr, is at least giving her a strong lead; M and W maintain a strong connection.
- 2 M: Backs W to ctr. M and W facing, M holding both W’s hands, step R-L (cts 1,2); back W one more step (ct 3); rock back on L, leading W fwd and away from ctr (ct 4).
- 3 M: Continue leading W out of ctr and around himself CW, R-L-R (QQS), so that she ends facing in (and him) (cts 1,&,2); facing out (and W), rock fwd and back (L-R) (cts 3,4).
- 4 M: Lead W to step fwd twd ctr as you step back on L (ct 1); moving out, R-L-R, lead W in a full underarm (M’s L arm, W’s R) turn CW (cts 2,3,4).
- 5 M: Facing out, holding both W’s hands, rock sideways LOD on L (ct 1); rock RLOD on R (ct 2); moving and facing slightly RLOD, step L-R-L (cts 3,&,4). W: mirror M exactly.
- 6 M and W: Repeat previous meas but with opp ftwk and direction.
- 7-8 M: Still holding W’s hands, rock LOD on L (ct 1); rock RLOD on R (ct 2); rock back on L-R next to L-L, all moving sideways LOD while leading W to turn CW under your R arm (cts 3,4,1); repeat previous three beats but opp ftwk and direction (cts 2,3,4).

III. WE ARE FRIENDS (Dance close)

Note: W dances exactly opp M.

- 1 M: Holding ptr in closed (ballroom or close tango) pos, M facing out: step fwd on L (ct 1); rock back on R (ct 2); backing into ctr, step L-R-L (cts 3,&,4).
- 2 M: Step sdwd in RLOD, “step together step together” R-L-R-L (cts 1,2,3,4). Note: Think “Merengue” or “latin movement” here.
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk and direction.

SEQUENCE: Each part repeats; entire dance (minus introduction) repeats verbatim.

Notes by Gary Diggs
Presented by Gary Diggs