

Assoulis

(Armenia)

Assoulis (ah-soo-LEESS) is a traditional dance from the Sasoun region of former West Armenia. Its name is a contraction of the verbs "asel", meaning "to say", and "lesel", meaning "to listen". "As ou lis" can be freely translated to "say and listen". It was presented by Tineke van Geel at the 1992 University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp.

RECORD: Ararat Armenian Dances, Hakketoon 1989.34 Side A/3. 4/4 meter

CASSETTE: Ararat Armenian Dances, Hakketoon 1989.34 Side A/3.

FORMATION: Line or open circle, little fingers interlocked, W-pos, facing a little R of ctr. Leader is at R end.

STYLING: Light and energetic.

MUSIC 4/4 meter PATTERN

Measures

4 meas INTRODUCTION. No action.

I. BASIC

- 1 Step on R ft in LOD, forearms move to R (ct 1); step on L ft in front of R in LOD, forearms move to L (ct 2); facing ctr step bkwd on R ft, arms move to 'W' pos (ct 3); step on L ft beside R (ct &); step on R ft beside L (ct 4).
- 2 Step twd ctr on L ft, turning body R (CW) to put L shld twd ctr, swaying arms down to V-pos (ct 1); step on R ft beside L (ct &); step on L ft beside R (ct 2); step bkwd on R ft, turning body back to face ctr, swaying arms up to W-pos (ct 3); step on L ft beside R (ct &); step on R ft beside L (ct 4).
- 3 Moving sdwd to L, both knees bent, accent step on L ft, R toe remaining on floor, and drop hands at the wrists while arms remain in W-pos, little fingers interlocked (ct 1); step on R ft behind L, raising hands at wrists (ct 2); repeat cts 1, 2 (cts 3, 4).
- 4 Repeat meas 3, cts 1, 2 (cts 1, 2); step on L ft to L, bringing arms down and to the L beginning a CW circle (ct 3); hop on L ft, bringing R ft next to L calf, and bringing arms up and to the R to complete the full CW circle (ct 4).

II. VARIATION

- 1-2 Repeat Fig I, meas 1-2.
- 3 Repeat Fig I, meas 3, ct 1 (ct 1); rest in pos (cts 2-3); repeat Fig I, meas 3, ct 2 (ct 4).
- 4 Repeat Fig I, meas 4.

DANCE SEQUENCE: The basic figure may be danced throughout. However, the leader may wish to introduce the variation but only during melody A when there are pauses or stops of the dehol (drum)*. Musical sequence: Intro 4 meas; Melody A-8 meas; Melody B-4 meas; A*-8 meas; B-4 meas; A*-8 meas; B-4 meas; A*-8 meas.