

Churshat Ha'ekaliptus

(Israel)

Churshat Ha'ekaliptus (khor-SHAHT hah-eh-kah-LEEP-toos) is a couple dance choreographed by Shlomo Bachar to music composed by Naomi Shemer. The title translates as "Eucalyptus Grove." Shlomo presented the dance at the Camp Hess Kramer Institute and the University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp in 1990 and at the 1995 Statewide Institute in Ojai, California.

Cassettes: Shlomo Bachar Special - Stockton 1990; Statewide 1995. 3/4 meter

Formation: Cpls facing, M back to ctr. M L, W R hands are joined at about chest level and held out a little to the side. Free hands are out to sides about waist level with elbows slightly bent.

Steps and Styling: Waltz*, pivot*.

Basic Step (L) (1 to a meas): Step on L ft to L side (ct 1); step on ball of R ft near L (ct 2); step on L ft across in front of R (ct 3). Knees are relaxed and there is a gentle "down-up-down" feeling to the step. Next step would start with R ft.

Basic Step (R): Same as Basic Step (L) but with opp ftwk and direction.

Basic Step (bkwd): Same as Basic Step (L) but step bkwd on ct 1 and fwd on ct 3. May also start bkwd on R ft.

Running Waltz: Three steps per meas (1 to a ct) with a slight accent on the first step. There is no closing step.

Movement is easy and flowing with the steps rather large.

* Described in Steps & Styling published by Folk Dance Federation of CA. Inc.

Measures 3/4 meter

PATTERN

8 meas INTRODUCTION No action. Begin with vocal.

I. BASIC STEPS AND WALTZ

1-2 M beg L, W R dance 2 Basic Steps.

3 M beg L, W R dance 1 Basic Step bkwd.

4 W: With 3 steps beg L, turn 3/4 CCW (L). End facing LOD.
M: Dance R,L in place (cts 1,2); step fwd on R twd W starting to take closed ballroom pos (ct 3). Help W with her turn by bringing joined hands (ML,WR) across in front and then up and over W head in a CCW arc.

5-8 In closed ballroom pos (beg ML,WR) dance 4 waltz steps making 2 CW turns while moving in LOD. End with M back to ctr; M L, W R hands joined as in meas 1.

9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.

II. BACK-TO-BACK; FACE AND TURN AWAY

- 1 Ftwk given for M, W use opp ftwk. Cpl pos same as in Fig I. Step on L sdwd in LOD (ct 1); step on R behind L turning almost back to back with ptr as joined hands (ML, WR) move twd RLOD (ct 2); step fwd onto L turning to face ptr as at the start of the meas (ct 3).
- 2 Facing ptr, repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk and direction. Retain joined hands (ML, WR) throughout. On ct 2, palms of M R, W L hands touch at about shldr level.
- 3 Step on L sdwd in LOD, releasing joined hands (ct 1); walking R,L make a 3/4 CW turn to end facing LOD (cts 2,3). M turn bkwd to own R, W to own L.
- 4 Joining inside hands in V-pos, walk R,L,R in LOD. End facing ptr with M L,W R hands joined.
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4. On meas 8, do not join hands. End with R shldrs adjacent, R hands joined in V-pos. M has back to ctr.

III. CIRCLE TOGETHER; SWAY; CIRCLE AWAY

- 1-2 Beg M L, W R, circle once CW as a cpl with 2 Running Waltz steps. End facing ptr with R hands still joined, M back to ctr.
- 3 Step on L sdwd in LOD bending knees while shifting wt onto L, leaving R toe on the floor (cts 1-2); straighten knees (ct 3).
- 4 Repeat meas 3 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 5-6 Release hands. Beg M L,W R, circle away from ptr (M CCW - W CW) with 2 Running Waltz steps. End facing ptr, M back to ctr.
- 7 Join both hands straight across (R with L). Beg M L, W R, dance 1 waltz step moving away from ctr, W backing up.
- 8 Repeat meas 7 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.

SEQUENCE: Dance pattern as written three times.

ENDING: After the third time, take closed ballroom pos. Dance one waltz and five or six pivot steps or two slow pivot steps. M turn W CW under the joined hands and end with an acknowledgement to ptr.