

## David Melech Israel – דוד מלך ישראל

(Israel)

David Melech Israel (DAH-veed MEH-leh EES-rah-ehl) means David, King of Israel. This lovely dance was choreographed in 2007 by Shmulik Gov-Ari, a well-known Israeli dance leader. The song was composed and sung by Chava Alberstein, an even more well-known Israeli singer. Sanna Longden presented this dance at the 2008 National Folk Organization (NFO) Conference and several other camps and workshops. Most recently, she presented it at the 2017 Festival of the Oaks in Berkeley, California.

Music: 4/4 meter MP3 file: <http://berkeleyfolkdancers.org/festivaloftheoaks/2017/music.htm>

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PsLREfpCg0I>  
or do an internet search for “David Melech Israel dance.”

Formation: Circle of dancers, closed or open, facing LOD (CCW). Dancers place L hand, facing up, above dancers' own L shoulder and R hand on top of L hand of dancer in front.

Steps & Styling: **Yemenite R:** Step R to R (ct 1); step L to L and slightly bkwd (ct 2); step R across in front of L (ct 3); hold (ct 4).

**Yemenite L:** Same as above with opp ftwk and direction.

**Back Yemenite:** Step R bkwd (ct 1); step L next to R (ct 2); step R fwd (ct 3); hold (ct 4). Can be done with opp ftwk.

**Rocking Step:** Step R fwd (ct 1); rock back on L (ct 2); rock fwd on R (cts 3); hold (ct 4). Can also be done starting with L.

Meas	4/4 meter	Pattern
8 meas	<b>INTRODUCTION.</b> No action. Start with the flute.	
	I. <b>TRAVELING LOD</b> (Hands in starting position)	
1	Touch R heel fwd (ct 1); bend L knee (ct 2); repeat (cts 3-4).	
2	Three steps fwd (LOD), R, L, R (cts 1-3); hold (ct 4).	
3-3	Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk.	
5	Sway R to R, changing hands to W-pos and facing ctr (cts 1-2); sway L to L (cts 3-4).	
6	Grapevine: Step R to R, step L in front of R, step R to R, step L behind R (cts 1-4).	
7-8	<u>Yemenite R</u> (cts 1-4); <u>Yemenite L</u> (cts 1-4).	
	II. <b>INTO CENTER AND BACK</b> (Hands in W-position)	
1	Moving twd ctr, step R in front of L (cts 1-2); cross L in front of R (cts 3-4).	
2	<u>Rocking Step</u> starting R (cts 1-4).	
3-4	Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk. End facing LOD, drop hand hold.	
5-6	Moving to R away from ctr, step R to R (ct 1-2); cross L in front of R (ct 3-4); repeat.	
7	Full turn to R in 3 steps, R, L, R (cts 1-3); hold (ct 4).	
8	<u>Back Yemenite L</u> (cts 1-4).	

**Sequence:** Part I twice; Part II once; then Part I twice; Part II twice to the end. The choreographer ends the dance with a “sleep gesture.” He put palms together at his cheek, did a brief knee bend and closed his eyes. The end of the song says that David sang “lu lu lu lu” and everyone fell asleep.