

Hora

(Israel)

Hora (HOHR-ah) is a style of dance, Romanian in origin, and brought to Israel by Romanian Jews. The lyricist, Yoram Tahar-Lev, talked about the beauty of the land and how the old hora brings joy to the singer. The song was written and performed by Avi Toledano in the 1982 Eurovision competition, winning Israel second place. One of the backup dancers was Shlomo Maman, who then created a folk dance to the song. This is one of the earliest examples of the use of a pop song for an Israeli folk dance, a trend that dominates today. This dance was presented by Aaron Alpert at the 2024 Stockton Folk Dance Camp.

Music: 4/4 meter Contact Aaron Alpert at: alpert1988@gmail.com.

Video: Search YouTube for “Hora Shlomo Maman Rokdim” and you should see the video of Shlomo Maman teaching and then dancing his dance.

Formation: Circle of dancers, facing center, shoulder hold.

Steps & Styling: L Back Yemenite: Step L bkwd (ct 1); step R next to L (ct &); step L fwd (ct 2).

Pivot Turn (aka Basketball Turn): Step R fwd leaving L in place (ct 1); pivot 180° CCW on L to face the opposite direction (ct 2); step R fwd, continuing to turn CCW (ct 3); transfer wt to L and end facing in the original direction (ct 4).

Open Grapevine: Moving CCW, step R to R (ct 1); step L in front of R (ct 2); step R to R (ct 3); step L behind R (ct 4). Can also begin facing CCW and step R fwd.

Meas	4/4 meter	PATTERN
8 meas	INTRODUCTION. After three shouts of “Hora!” start with the singing of the first verse.	
	I. SIDE BEHIND. Facing ctr, arms on neighbors’ shldrs, moving CCW.	
1	Step R to R (ct 1); step L behind R (ct 2); repeat cts 1-2 (cts 3-4).	
2	Step R to R (ct 1); bend R, lifting L ft behind R knee (ct 2); L Back Yemenite (cts 3, &, 4).	
3-4	Repeat meas 1-2.	
5	Kick R heel fwd to floor (ct 1); step R in place (ct &); step L in front of R (ct 2); repeat cts 1-2 (cts 3, &, 4).	
6	Step R to R (ct 1); sway L (ct 2); step R to R (ct 3); step L in front of R (ct 4).	
7-8	Repeat meas 5-6.	
	II. CHORUS. With the lyrics “Hora!” Facing center, hands free.	
1	Bringing hands up to a large V, dancing lightly on the balls of the feet, shout “Hora!” while stepping R to R (ct 1); step L beside R (ct &); step R in place (ct 2); step L to L, lowering hands to sides (ct 3); step R beside L (ct &); step L in place (ct 4). In short, triplets R and L.	
2	Pivot Turn, arms reaching fwd, palms up, and yell “Hey” on ct 1.	



HEY!

Hora – continued

3 Step R in place (ct 1); lift L in front (ct 2); step L in place (ct 3); lift R in front (ct 4).

4 Open Grapevine moving CCW (cts 1-4).

5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.

III. TO CENTER AND BACKING OUT. With the lyrics “Lai lah, lai lah, lai lah, lai!” Hands joined in V-pos.

1 Step R heel fwd (ct 1); step heavily onto L as it moves fwd behind R (ct &); repeat ct 1 twice (cts 2, &, 3, &); step R heavily fwd and hold (cts 4, &). Upper body leans fwd on this meas, and shldr twist toward their respective ft.

2 Beg L, three steps bkwd (cts 1-3); touch R heel slightly fwd (ct 4).

3 Four sways R-L-R-L (cts 1-4).

4-6 Repeat meas 1-3.

IV. ENDING.

Step R to R, bringing arms in a large V (ct 1); step L next to R (ct &).

Sequence: Fig I, Fig II (Chorus), Fig III, Fig II (Chorus),
Fig I, Fig II (Chorus), Fig III, Ending.

Lyrics:

Od maziv hasadeh she'azavnu az
Od ha'aretz noseit yevulah
Ve'od yafim hem haleilot bichna'an
Terem hashemesh olah

The field we left behind then is still golden
The earth still bears its harvest
And more beautiful are the nights in Canaan
Before the sun rises

Od rakevet chotzah sham pardes yarok
Chasidah od roga'at me'al
Ve'od nisah ha'arafel ba'emek
Bein hazrichah vehatal

The train still crosses the green orchard there
A stork still rests above
And the fog still floats in the valley
Between the sunrise and the dew

CHORUS:

Vegam ha Horah, hahi im ha “Hey!”
Koloh od oleh, koloh lo nadam
Vegam ha Horah, hahi im ha “Hey!”
Shirah memalei libi le'olam

CHORUS:

And also the Hora, the one with the “Hey!”
Its voice still rises, its voice is not stilled
And this hora, the one with the “Hey!”
Its song fills my heart forever

Lai lah, lai lah, lai lah, lai!

Lai lah, lai lah, lai lah, lai!

Od shatim ananim al batei ha'ir
Vehayam melatef et hachol
Ve'od nishmah eich balevavot
Po'em lo zemer yashan umachol

Clouds still float over the city's houses
And the sea caresses the shore
And it's still heard, how within everyone's heart
An old song and a dance are beating