

Kher Pan (Armenia)

Translated as "good thing", Kher Pan (KHAIR-pahn) is a traditional song dance from the district of Erzerum (historic Western Armenia). The steps, like those of most song-dances, are very simple and easily done by all ages. The basic pattern resembles the Kurdish "Delilo" dances, and they may be related. Susan and Gary Lind-Sinianian prepared this material for presentation at the 1985 University of Pacific Folk Dance Camp. Their sources are Arsen Anoushian, Hourig Sahagian, Eddie Keosian and Hasmig Aroian, Armenian people with whom they work in New England.

RECORD: Facone 1001 "Traditional Armenian Dances" Side A/2 2/4 meter

FORMATION: Closed circle of cpls (any 2 people) facing ctr; hands joined in "Armenian hold": little fingers linked, elbows bent and down.

STYLE: Carriage is erect and relaxed. The Chorus steps are taken with a flex of the ankles and knees, lending a sinking aspect to them.

MUSIC 2/4

PATTERN

Measures

8 meas INTRODUCTION. No action.

I. CHORUS (To the center and back)

A 1-4 Facing ctr and moving fwd, step R,L,R (1 step per meas); touch ball of L ft beside R, no wt (meas 4).

5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 with opp ftwk and direction.

9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.

Note: Lean fwd slightly when moving fwd and straighten up while backing out. The joined hands make small fwd moving circles while going in and out, one circle per meas.

II. SIDEWARD RIGHT AND LEFT

B 1-4 Facing ctr and moving to the R, step on R ft (meas 1); step on L ft across in front of R (meas 2); step on R ft to R (meas 3); touch ball of L ft beside R, no wt (meas 4).

5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 with opp ftwk and direction, still crossing in front.

9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.

Note: Do not circle hands, or use sinking steps in Fig II.

III. CHORUS

A 1-16 Repeat Fig I, Chorus.

IV. GREETINGS

B 1-2 Swivel on heels to face ptr, flexing knees (meas 1); flex twice while facing ptr (meas 2, cts 1,2).

3-4 Repeat meas 1-2, twisting and flexing twd neighbor (corner).

5-16 Repeat meas 1-4 three times (4 in all).

Note: One may nod to ptr and corner as one faces twd them.

Repeat dance from the beginning.