

Kvar Acharay Chatzot

(Israel)

Kvar Acharay Chatzot (KVAR ah-khah-RAY khah-ZHOHT) is a non-partner dance choreographed by Rivka Sturman. The title may be translated as "Midnight has passed." The dance is also known as "Mechol Hasheket" (mah-KHOL hah-sheh-KET) meaning "Quiet Dance."

Rivka originally set the dance to the music "Erev Ba" which was composed by Arish Levanon. At the 1965 University of the Pacific Stockton Folk Dance Camp she presented this dance and another dance choreographed by Yoav Ashriel. The second dance is known to many as "Erev Ba II." Both dances used the same music and were printed in "Let's Dance" May 1966. Subsequently, Ms. Sturman choose the music listed here for her dance rather than have two popular dances using the same music. The choreography for Kvar Acharay Chatzot differs slightly from Erev Ba I because of the arrangement of the music but it is easy to see that the two dances have a common origin.

Record: El Al Songs of Israel, Vol II Side A/7. 4/4 meter

Formation: Open circle of dancers facing diag R of ctr, leader at R end. Dancers joined in a special handhold: With L hand hold the R hand of L neighbor (palm to palm) and then bend elbows so that each L forearm is in front of owner's body with neighbor's R forearm resting on it. L palms are up and R palms are down.

Measures 4/4 meter PATTERN

I. WALK IN LOD; BACKWARD YEMENITE

- A 1 With hands joined as described in Formation and moving in LOD, walk R,L,R (cts 1,2,3); hold (ct 4).
- 2 Dance a Backward Yemenite: Step back onto L, bending knee (ct 1); step on ball of R ft near L (ct 2); step fwd in LOD on L (ct 3); hold (ct 4).

II. WALK IN LOD; STEP AND TOUCH RIGHT HEEL

- B 1 With joined hands lowered into V-pos, repeat Fig I, meas 1.
- 2 Facing ctr, step back onto L (cts 1-2); rest R heel fwd on the floor (toes up) while raising joined hands into W-pos (ct 3); hold (ct 4).

SEQUENCE: Introduction (8 meas) No action. Begin with vocal.

Fig I 8 times (16 meas)

Fig II 4 times (8 meas)

Fig I 4 times (8 meas)

* Fig II 3 times (6 meas); with hands in V-pos, step on R to R side and sway to R (cts 1-2); sway to L side (cts 3-4). (meas 7).

Fig I 8 times (16 meas)

Fig II 4 times (8 meas)

Fig I 4 times (8 meas)

Fig II once (2 meas)

* On the second time through the music there are only 7 meas of music for Fig II. Some groups dance it as described above. Others dance it as follows:

Meas 1: Step on R ft in LOD (ct 1); turning to face ctr, step back onto L (ct 2); rest R heel on floor while raising joined hands into W-pos (ct 3); hold (ct 4).

Meas 2-7: Repeat Fig II three times.

Either version can be danced - just follow the leader.

KVAR ACHARAY CHATZOT

Kvar acharay chatzot od lo kibu et hayarayach
Ki lifnay kibu'ee orot
Orot shel kochavim
Notnim od rega kat la'ohavim

Midnight has passed.
The moon is still shining.
Before extinguishing the light of the stars,
Another moment is granted to those who love.

(Chorus)

Machar yihiyeh zeh yom chadash
U'ma efshar miyom chadash kvar litsapot
Az ten lanu od rega, rak od rega
Af al pi she'kvar acharay chatzot

Tomorrow is a new day but what can be expected
from another day?
So please grant us another moment, just another
moment, although it is past midnight.

Kvar acharay chatzot
Od lo hidliku et haboker
Ki lifnay she'minakim
Et ha'etmol min harchovot
Notmin od rega kat la'ahavot.

Midnight has passed.
It is not yet morning.
Before cleaning the street of the day passed,
another moment is granted to the lovers.

Kvar acharay chatzot
Od lo hidliku et ha'shemesh
Ki lifnay she'michalkin
Et ha'iton ve'he'chalav
Notnim lanu od rega she'nohav.

Midnight has passed.
The sun is not yet shining.
Before the delivery of milk
and the morning newspapers,
lovers are granted another moment.