

Libi

(Israel)

Libi (Lee-BEE) means “my heart.” The song, composed by Antashi Friadman, is sung by Levy Falkowitz, a member of an ultra-orthodox Jewish sect that embraces joy in prayer. The song is unsurprisingly religious and highly emotive. The choreographer, Yuval Tabashi, injects the same soulful expression into the dance. Libi won first place in the circle dance competition at the 2019 Karmiel Festival, a large and popular dance festival held annually in Israel. The dance is in waltz rhythm and style. It was presented by Aaron Alpert at the 2020 Stockton Virtual Folk Dance Camp.

Music: 3/4 meter. Contact Aaron Alpert at aaron@nirkoda.com. The music is also available on the internet for purchase. Search for “Libi mp3 Falkowitz”

Video: Videos are available on the internet. Search for “Libi Israeli dance.”

Formation: Circle of dancers, hands free at sides.

Rhythm: Slow, waltz. Arms move freely and expressively.

Waltz step: Starting with either ft, generally a large first step fwd with knees slightly bent (ct 1), followed by two smaller steps (cts 2, 3), still moving fwd.

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

Double Cherkassiya: (2 meas) Step R in front of L with small knee bend and body twisting L (ct 1); step L bkwd in place (ct 2); step R to R (ct 3). Step L in front of R with small knee bend and body twisting R (ct 1); step R bkwd in place (ct 2); step L to L (ct 3).

Meas	3/4 meter	PATTERN
1-8	INTRODUCTION. No action. Begin with singing.	
	I. FIGURE I.	
1	Facing CCW, one waltz step fwd while gently swinging arms R (cts 1-3).	
2	Step L fwd (ct 1); touch R toes next to L (ct 2); hold (ct 3).	
3	Step R bkwd (ct 1); turning to face ctr, step L to L (ct 2); step R in front of L (ct 3).	
4	Waltz Yemenite step beg L to L (cts 1-3).	
5-8	Repeat meas 1-4.	
9	Beg R, full turn R moving fwd CCW (cts 1-3).	
10	Facing CCW, step L fwd (ct 1); step R bkwd in place (ct 2); step L fwd in place (ct 3).	
11-12	Repeat meas 9-10.	
13	Facing ctr, Waltz Yemenite step beg R to R (cts 1-3).	
14	Beg L, 3/4 turn L with three steps, moving CW around the circle (cts 1-3), ending facing CCW.	
15	Large step R fwd (ct 1); lift L up in front into a large “back-bicycle” movement, ending with L ready to step bkwd (ct 2); hold (ct 3).	
16	Waltz Yemenite step beg L bkwd (cts 1-3).	
17-31	Repeat meas 1-15.	
32	Repeat meas 16, but end facing ctr.	

II. FIGURE II.

- 1 Facing ctr, beg R, Waltz step fwd, raising straight arms high (cts 1-3).
- 2 Facing ctr, beg L, Waltz step bkwd, bringing hands down to sides (cts 1-3).
- 3 Beg R, use Waltz step to turn half R to face away from ctr (cts 1-3).
- 4 With back to ctr, beg L, Waltz Yemenite, bringing hands from in front to behind (cts 1-3).
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 facing out, to end facing ctr again.
- 9 Big step R to R, bending R knee while straightening the L to L and looking slightly to the L, stretching arms out to sides (ct 1); hold (cts 2-3).
- 10 Facing ctr, step L behind R (ct 1); step R to R and face CCW (ct 2); step L fwd (ct 3).
- 11 Moving CCW, beg R, Waltz step fwd, both arms extended R (cts 1-3).
- 12 Continuing CCW, beg L, Waltz step fwd with arms at sides (cts 1-3), end facing ctr.
- 13-16 Repeat meas 9-12.
- 17-32 Repeat meas 1-16.

III. FIGURE III.

- 1 Facing ctr, step R to R (ct 1); step L behind R (ct 2); step R to R (ct 3). Hands push twd ctr, palms out, until fully extended, then sweep down to sides.
- 2 Step L in front of R (ct 1); step and sway R to R, leaving L in place (ct 2); sway L to L (ct 3).
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2.
- 5-6 Double Cherkassiya, beg R in front of L (cts 1-3, 1-3).
- 7 Beg R, use Waltz step to turn half R to face away from ctr (cts 1-3).
- 8 Repeat meas 7 with opp ftwk and direction to end facing ctr (cts 1-3).
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.
- 17-32 Repeat meas 9-16.

Sequence: Repeat dance twice as described above. End with arms raised high.

Lyrics

Kol echad baruni	One God created
Ve'omar chai ani	By saying "live"
Ki lo yaruni, ki lo yaruni	Because we did not fear, because we did not fear
Ha'adam ve'chai	Man is alive and well
Libi, libi ve'besari	My heart, my heart, and my flesh
Libi, libi ve'besari	My heart, my heart, and my flesh
Yeranu, yeranu	They will sing, they will sing
Al kol chai	To the living God
Na na na na na na	Na na na na na na
Tzamea lach nafshi	You thirst for my soul
Na na na na na na	Na na na na na na
Kama lach besari	And how much for my flesh