

Menim Balam

(Azerbaijan)

Menim Balam (MEH-nihm bah-LAHM), "My Baby (Boy)," is an Azerbaijani women's dance. Ercüment Kılıç learned the dance steps in Turkey in 1987 from visiting Azerbaijani state artists. He choreographed the dance to the music of a traditional Azerbaijani song, "Dut Ağacı Boyunca" ("The Mulberry Tree"), performed by the Turkish band Ezginin Günlüğü. Ercüment Kılıç presented the dance at the 2014 Stockton Folk Dance Camp, at University of the Pacific. He introduced this dance in New York in March 1988, and also taught it at the 1996 Kolo Festival in San Francisco.

Music: 4/4 meter CD: *Ercüment Kılıç Presents*, Track 1
Video: 2014 Stockton Folk Dance Camp, DVD. Stockton Folk Dance Camp videos can be viewed in the library at UOP, or by contacting a camp participant who purchased them.

Formation: Line or circle of individual dancers, no handhold. Arms are low at sides, slightly away from the body, palms facing down with middle finger pointing down and the rest pointing away.

Steps and Styling: Feminine, soft and delicate. Dancers typically wear long transparent veils with the ends of the veils attached to their middle fingers. The finger positions in this dance allude to the use of veils.

Azerbaijani-Turkish Woman's Arm Position (ATWAP): Leading arm at shoulder level with elbow bent at a slightly oblique angle, palm facing in, fingers pointing up with middle finger pointing slightly in. Trailing arm at a low diagonal, palm facing down, middle finger pointing slightly down, rest pointing away. The leading arm can be either R or L arm.

Changing the position of the arms: Bring leading arm down and trailing arm up while rotating wrists; end with hands at approximately chest level, leading palm facing down, trailing palm facing up. Continue moving arms to sides of body on a diagonal (leading arm moving down, trailing arm moving up); end with arms in opposite position. Entire movement is done with a smooth, gradual motion.

Measures	4/4 meter	PATTERN
4		<u>INTRODUCTION</u> No action.
		I. <u>SWAYS R AND L</u>
1		Facing ctr, sway R, bending knees slightly (cts 1-2); straighten and hold, wt on R (cts 3-4).
2		Sway L, bending knees slightly (cts 1-2); straighten and hold, wt on L (cts 3-4).
3-4		Repeat meas 1-2.

II. STEPS TO SIDE AND DRAW

- 1 Looking down twd L, step R (ct 1); step L beside R (ct 2); step R (cts 3-4).
- 2 Draw L ft next to R, bending body L and looking twd the drawn ft (cts 1-2); hold (cts 3-4).
- 2-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.

III. INTO CTR AND OUT

- 1 On balls of ft, move fwd into ctr with three steps, R-L-R (cts 1-3); step L beside R, putting heels down (ct 4). Shoulders slowly pull back and arms trail body slightly during this movement.
- 2 Bend knees slightly (cts 1-2); straighten knees and raise heels (cts 3-4).
- 3 Repeat meas 1 backing away from ctr. Arms slowly return to sides of body during this movement.
- 4 Bend and rotate knees, held closely together, in a CW semi-circle (cts 1-4).
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.

IV. TURNING IN SMALL CIRCLE (LOOK IN THE MIRROR)

- 1 With arms in ATWAP position, R arm leading, begin a CW turn in a small circle: step fwd on R, leading with the heel (ct 1); step L next to R (ct 2), step fwd on R, leading with the heel (ct 3), step L next to R (ct 4).
- 2 Finish CW turn with step fwd on R, bending knees (cts 1-2); touch L to the side, straightening knees (ct 3); hold (ct 4). Throughout the figure, look at raised palm as if looking at a mirror.
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.

V. ROCKS IN PLACE (PRAYING FOR THE BABY)

- 1-16 Facing ctr, place hands over abdomen and, with head bowed, sway 16 times in place starting with R: sway R (cts 1-2); hold (cts 3-4); repeat with alternating ftwk.

ENDING

- 1-2 Repeat Fig IV, meas 1-2 (turn R looking at mirror).
- 3 (Music slows at this point) Facing ctr, place hands over abdomen and, with head bowed, sway L (cts 1-2); hold (cts 3-4).
- 4 Sway R (cts 1-2); sway L (cts 3-4);
- 5... Stand in place, with head bowed, until music ends..

Sequence: Fig I-IV three times, Fig V, Fig II-IV, Ending.

We thank Ercüment Kılıç and Fuad Tokad for providing translations for the song lyrics.

Errata -- Wind on Loch Fyne by Bill Lidicker and Lone Coleman. Let's Dance! (May/June 2014, Vol. 71, no. 5, p. 15. In measures 1-8, line 3: Change the third "M2" to "W2" so that the line reads "M2, goes back between M2 and W2 and loops around W2 passing L shldr to return to top of"
Thanks to Elsa Bacher for alerting us to this mistake. Bill Lidicker and Lone Coleman

Menim Balam -- Lyrics

Azeri Lyrics:

Dut Ağacı Boyunca

Dut ağacı boyunca
Dut yemedim doyunca
Dut ağacı boyunca
Dut yemedim doyunca
Yarı halvette gördüm
Danışmadım doyunca
Aycan, aycan
Yarı halvette gördüm
Danışmadım doyunca

Chorus:

[Menim balam kime neyler
Körpe balam kime neyler
Menim balam ay balam
Ay körpe balam ay balam]

Kızıl üzük laxladi
Verdim anam sahladı
Kızıl üzük laxladi
Verdim anam sahladı
Anama kurban olum
Meni tez adahladı
Aycan aycan
Anama kurban olum
Meni tez adahladı

Chorus

(Chant)

Gedirdim yavaş yavaş
Ayağıma deđdi taş
Gedirdim yavaş yavaş
Ayağıma deđdi taş
Senden mene yar olmaz
Gel olah bacı gardaş
Aycan, aycan
Senden mene yar olmaz
Gel olah bacı gardaş

Chorus

Translation:

The Mulberry Tree

Alongside the mulberry tree
Didn't get to eat mulberries till fully satisfied
Alongside the mulberry tree
Didn't get to eat mulberries till fully satisfied
I saw my lover alone
Didn't get to talk [to her] till fully satisfied
Hey dear, hey dear
I saw my lover alone
Didn't get to talk [to her] till fully satisfied

Chorus:

[My baby is so innocent
My young baby is so innocent
My young baby, oh my baby
Oh my young baby, oh my baby]

My golden ring is ready and clean
I gave it to my mom to keep
My golden ring is ready and clean
I gave it to my mom to keep
I would sacrifice my life for my mom
She raised me so quickly/She engaged me too soon
Hey dear, hey dear
I would sacrifice my life for my mom
She raised me so quickly/She engaged me too soon

Chorus

My heart so desires that nobody should suffer pain.
Oh please don't let that fate be mine. So unfair!
Oh don't! May there never be an opportunity for it.

My (poor) self has explored troubles and love.
I am so thankful though,
(that) I am (still capable of) wishing (only this:)
that I accept/expect troubles present in my being
(but) may there not be one other troubled being.

I was walking slowly (I was caring about you so much)
My foot hit a stone (but because of this problem)
I was walking slowly (I was caring about you so much)
My foot hit a stone (but because of this problem)
You won't be my sweetheart
Let's be sister and brother
Hey dear, hey dear
You won't be my sweetheart
Let's be sister and brother

Chorus