

Tfilati

(Israel)

Tfilati (ftee-lah-TEE) is a non-partner dance choreographed by Avner Nain. The name means "my prayer." The lyrics, music, and singing are by Naomi Shemer who received the Israeli Award for her contributions to the folklore of Israel. She wrote many famous Israeli folk songs in addition to this one. Tfilati was taught by David Ederly at the 1998 Stockton Folk Dance Camp, and we acknowledge with thanks his help in preparing this description.

Music: Record: album by Naomi Shemer
Cassette: Israeli Folk Dances by David Ederly, Side B/3.
CD: Israel Dances, Greatest Folk Dances, ID 1001, Band 7; Marganit 1 by Avner Naim; Keff by Moshe Eskayo, No. 12, Band 6. 3/4 meter

Formation: Closed circle with hands joined in V-pos.

Steps and Grapevine*, Waltz Balance*.

Styling: Yemenite (R): Step on R ft to R side (ct 1); step on L ft next to R ft (ct 2); step on R ft across in front of L (ct 3).

* Described in the "General Glossary" of Steps & Styling (rev 1996), published by the Folk Dance Federation of CA, Inc.

Meas	3/4 meter	Pattern
8 meas	<u>INTRODUCTION</u> No action.	
	I. <u>YEMENITE STEPS AND HEEL BRUSHES</u>	
1	Facing ctr, dance Yemenite step to R.	
2	Step back on L, bending fwd a little at the waist (ct 1); step on R ft in place or slightly to the R (ct 2); step on L across in front of R turning to face LOD (CCW) (ct 3).	
3-4	Step fwd in LOD on R ft (ct 1); brush L ft next to R, lifting on ball of R ft (ct 2); step fwd on L ft (ct 3). Repeat meas 3.	
5-8	Repeat meas 1-4.	
	II. <u>TURNS AND GRAPEVINES</u>	
1	Moving in LOD and releasing hands, make full CW turn to R (R, L, R).	
2	Continuing the flow of movement in LOD and regaining hand hold if convenient, dance a 3-step Grapevine, starting with L across in front.	
3-4	Repeat meas 1-2.	

- 5 Facing ctr, dance a Yemenite step to R (R, L, R), turning to face slightly L on ct 3.
- 6 Moving in RLOD (CW), make a full CCW turn to the L (L, R, L).
- 7 Starting with R ft, dance a Waltz Balance step into the ctr, raising arms high.
- 8 Starting with L ft, dance a Waltz Balance step bkwd to place, lowering arms to sides.

III. TURNS IN LINE OF DANCE; TURN TO CENTER; GRAPEVINE BACK

- 1 Starting with a large step on R, make a 3/4 turn to R (CW) with 3 steps (R,L, R) to end facing RLOD.
 - 2 Step bkwd on L (ct 1); step on R next to L (ct 2); step fwd in RLOD on L (ct 3).
 - 3 Make a 1/2 turn to R (CW) starting with a large step on R and continuing with L and R to end facing LOD.
 - 4 Repeat meas 2 facing LOD.
 - 5 Still facing LOD, step on R to R (ct 1); step on L across in front of R, twisting body to face out and bending slightly fwd (ct 2); step back on R (ct 3).
 - 6 Make a full turn to L twd ctr (L, R, L).
 - 7 Facing LOD, step on R ft across in front of L, twisting to face almost twd ctr (ct 1); step back on L (ct 2); step on R to R (away from ctr) (ct 3).
 - 8 Dance a 3-step Grapevine to R (away from ctr and back to line of dance) starting with L ft across in front of R (ct 1); step on R to R side (ct 2); step on L behind R, turning 1/4 to face ctr (ct 3).
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.

Repeat dance twice (three times in all).

On last repeat, Fig III goes only through meas 1-14. End dance in the middle of the circle with both arms raised high twd ctr and hold.