Zemer Nugeh - זמר נוגה

(Zeem Noo-GEH) means A Sad Melody. It is considered an “old” dance in the Israeli folk dance repertoire. It was choreographed by Yankele Levy in 1977 to music written by Shmulik Kraus around 1968. It is based on a poem written by Rachel Blaustein around 1931. The music and the dance became very popular in Israel in 2003 when it was associated with the first Israeli astronaut, Ilan Ramon, who died when the Space Shuttle Columbia broke apart as it returned to earth. Since this is an “old” dance, the folklore process has evolved some variations in different communities. This is how the dance was presented by Erica Goldman at the 2014 Heritage Festival in San Carlos, California.

Music: 4/4 meter

Erica Goldman – Israeli Dances, Track #15

Video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=UEHljHRzchc

Formation: The dance begins in a circle with hands joined in V pos.

Steps and Styling: Walking steps, swaying, double cherkassiya step.

Measure 4/4 meter

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<th>PATTERN</th>
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4 Meas

INTRODUCTION No action. Start with the vocal. Note: The choreographer introduced the dance by starting on the syllable “ma” of HatishMA (meas 5, ct 3). Some dance communities still dance it this way.

I. SWAY, GRAPEVINE TO RIGHT

3-8 Repeat meas 1-2 three more times.

II. SWAY, TURN, WALK, DOUBLE CHERKASSIYA


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8 Sway L (ct 1), sway R (ct 2), sway L (ct 3), sway R (ct 4).

Repeat dance from the beginning. In the listed recording the dance repeats twice, then repeats Part I, ending on meas 4, ct 3.

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**Zemer Nugeh**

Hatishma Koli

Hatishma koli rechoki sheli
Hatishma koli ba'asher hincha
Kol kore be'oz, kol bochel bid'mi
Ume'al hazman metzaveh brachah.

A Sad Melody

Will You Hear My Voice?

Will you hear my voice, my far-away one?
Will you hear my voice, wherever you are?
A voice calling with strength, crying in my blood.
Over time it sends a blessing.

Eretz zo rabah udrachim bah rav
Nifgashot le'dak nifradot la'ad.
Mevakesh adam, ach koshlot raglav,
Lo yuchal limtzo et asher avad.

A land so big, and it has many roads.
We meet for a moment, separate forever.
A man asks, but his legs fail,
He can never find that which he has lost.

Acharon yamai mah karov ulai
Mah karov hayom shel dim'ot preidah.
Achakeh lecha ad yichbu chayay,
Kechakot Rachel (x3), ledodah.

Hatishma koli, rechoki sheli...

Will you hear my voice, my far-away one...

Remember that the “ch” in Hebrew is pronounced like a hard “H” as if you were clearing your throat. For example, “ba’asher hincha” is pronounced “bah asher heen HA.”

These are the words to the complete poem. The recording on Erica’s CD repeats the first verse, followed by the third verse.

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