

Atzay Hatsaftsafot

(Israel)

Atzay Hatsaftsafot (aht-ZAY haht-SAHF-tsay-foht) can be translated as "The Poplar Trees" or, more briefly, as "The Poplars."

Ya'acov (better known as Yankele) Levi, an Israeli choreographer, is the creator of this dance. The song to which the music is danced is titled "Zer Shel Narkissim," composed by Tahar Lev. On the record noted below, it is sung by Ron Eliran. Stan Isaacs learned the dance while in Israel and introduced it to folk dance groups in San Luis Obispo in the middle 1970's.

Record: Hed-arzi MN-544 4/4 meter

Formation: Couples in a circle, facing CCW in Open Ballroom position: man on inside, arm around woman's waist, woman's left hand on man's right shoulder. M L, W R arms rest easily at the side.

Steps: Pivot: A turn on the ball of one foot.

Rock: A step or weight shift onto indicated foot, leaving the other foot in place.

Closed Ballroom position: Partners facing, M R hand at center of W back above waist; his R elbow bent and held out. W L hand on M R shoulder. M holds W R hand in his L hand at about shoulder level, elbows slightly bent.

Styling: Although Atzay Hatsaftsafot shows the influence of Northern European dance, especially in the pivot step, the dance is done in the Israeli style, very broadly and freely.

Measures	4/4 meter	PATTERN
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4 meas INTRODUCTION No action. Begin with vocal.

I. WALK, PIVOT; WALK, ROCK

1 Walk fwd 4 steps in LOD, beg M L, W R.

2 In Closed Ballroom pos, dance 4 Pivot steps, turning twice CW while moving fwd in LOD.

3 Repeat meas 1.

4 Rock fwd in LOD on M L, W R, then back on other foot.

5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.

II. TURN AWAY, CLAP; TURN TWICE IN RLOD

- 1 Beg M L, W R turn away from ptr with a three-step turn, M CCW twd ctr of circle, W CW away from ctr (cts 1-3); hold while clapping hands once (ct 4).
- 2 Repeat cts 1-3 of meas 1 using opp ftwk to move back to place in circle (cts 1-3); hold, end facing ptr (ct 4).
- 3 Step in LOD, M L, W R, bending knee and bringing both arms twd LOD, about chest level in anticipation of next step (ct 1); turn in RLOD with a three-step turn, beg with a leap onto M R to start CW turn, and onto W L to start CCW turn, ending facing ptr (cts 2-4).
- 4 Repeat meas 3, but end facing in LOD in Open Ballroom pos.

III. WALK, PIVOT; WALK, ROCK

- 1-4 Repeat Fig I, meas 1-4.

IV. TURN AWAY, CLAP; TURN FOUR TIMES IN RLOD

- 1-4 Repeat Fig II, meas 1-4, but end facing ptr.
- 5-6 Repeat Fig II, meas 3-4, to end facing in LOD in Open Ballroom pos.

SEQUENCE: Dance Figures I through IV three times in all. Last time—end facing ptr.
Dance Fig II, meas 3-4 twice.