

Hava Nagila (Israel)

Hava Nagila (HAH-vah nah-GEE-lah) is a traditional melody of East European origin that has been used for dancing for many years. The title translates as "Let's Be Happy." This particular choreography is by Tsvi Hilman and was presented by Ya'akov Eden at the 1984 University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp.

RECORD: Blue Star 84 YE-10008 Side B/8. 4/4 meter

FORMATION: Dancers at random about room facing designated wall.
Hands are relaxed at sides.

STEPS and STYLING: Step-Hop (2 to a meas): Step on designated ft (ct 1); hop on that ft (ct 2); repeat with opp ftwk (cts 3,4).

Stride-Close (2 to a meas): Moving to R side, spring onto both ft in stride pos (ct 1); displace R ft with L ft, bending R knee and lifting R ft (ct 2); repeat all (cts 3,4). Sometimes a preliminary hop on L is taken before cts 1 and 3. To cover greater distances, on cts 2 and 4 step on L across in front of R. To move to L side, use opp ftwk.

MUSIC 4/4

PATTERN

Measures

12 meas INTRODUCTION No action. Dance starts on word "Hava."

I. STEP-HOP, CROSS, BACK AND THREE-STEP TURN

1 Step-Hop on R to R side (cts 1,2); step on L across in front of R, bending knee (ct 3); step diag bkwd L on R (ct 4).

2 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk and direction.

3 Beg R and moving to R, make a 3-step turn CW ending with ft in stride pos (cts 1,2,3); hold (ct 4).

4 Repeat meas 3 with opp ftwk and direction.

5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.

II. STEP-HOPS WITH LEG SWINGS

1 In place, Step-Hop on R while swinging L leg straight fwd (cts 1,2); in place, Step-Hop on L while swinging R leg straight bkwd (cts 3,4). Swing hands fwd with palms fwd on cts 1,2; swing hands bkwd with palms bkwd on cts 3,4.

2 Repeat meas 1.

3 Repeat meas 1, cts 1,2 (cts 1,2); in place, dance 2 small running steps L,R, kicking the free ft up behind (R,L) (cts 3,4).

4 Small step fwd on L (ct 1); small leap fwd onto R (ct 2); small step fwd on L (ct 3); stamp R (no wt) beside L (ct 4).

5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.

III. STRIDE-CLOSE AND TURN

1 Step on R to R side, turning body a little to R (CW) (ct 1); hold (ct 2); close L beside R (no wt) (ct 3); hold (ct 4).

2 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk.

- 3 Moving sdwd R, dance 2 Stride-Close steps.
- 4 Beg R and moving to R, make 2-step turn CW (cts 1,2); spring onto both ft in stride pos (ct 3); hop on R (ct 4).
- 5-6 Repeat meas 3-4 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 7 Run fwd R,L,R (cts 1,2,3); hop on R turning 1/2 CW. On the turn, L ft is close to floor and makes an arc.
- 8 Repeat meas 7 with opp ftwk, turning 1/2 CCW on the hop. If space has become a problem because of the fwd movement in Fig II, the running steps (cts 1,2,3) may be lengthened to allow a return to orig place.
- 24 meas REPEAT ENTIRE DANCE.
- 16 meas REPEAT FIG I AND II.

IV. ENDING (Music retards)

- 1-2 Repeat Fig III, meas 1-2.
- 3 Step sdwd R on R (ct 1); step on L beside R (ct 2); step sdwd R on R (ct 3); step on L beside R (ct 4).
- 4 Beg R and moving to R, make a 3-step turn CW (cts 1,2,3); step on L beside R (ct 4).

Description written October 1984..