

Katonti

(Israel)

The word “katonti” (kah-TOHN-tee) comes from the word “k’tan” which means small and is variously translated as “I am insignificant” or “I am unworthy.”

This dance was choreographed by Oren Ashkenazi in 2013. It was taught by Erica Goldman at the Heritage Festival in 2014 and elsewhere in subsequent years, and continues to be a popular Israeli dance in local groups. The lyrics are taken from Genesis, set to a melody by Yonatan Razel, who is also the singer on one recording.

In Genesis 32:11, Jacob is preparing to meet his brother Esau, who is approaching with 400 men. Jacob and Esau have not spoken since Jacob fled Esau’s rage after Jacob cheated Esau out of his birthright. Jacob is terrified Esau’s superior forces will win the battle. Before the battle, Jacob prays in humility and faith to God for deliverance. He begins by saying, “Katonti…”

Music: 3/4 meter The music can be downloaded as an mp3 file from several internet sites.

Video: Several videos can be seen on YouTube by searching for “Katonti Dance,” including a video of the choreographer teaching and dancing it.

Formation: Mixed circle, facing CCW, without holding hands.

Steps & Styling: Graceful waltzing. Arms are held out slightly at sides, but move freely during the dance. In some groups, hands are joined in V-pos when not turning.

Waltz: Step on R (ct 1); step L near R (ct 2); step on R (ct 3). Step usually alternates and may be danced in any direction or while turning. Generally, the first step is longer than the other two.

Balance-Waltz: Step R to R (ct 1); step L slightly behind R (ct 2); step R back in place (ct 3). Step may be done with opposite ftwk and direction.

Meas	3/4 meter	PATTERN
13 meas	INTRODUCTION. Begin dancing with the lyrics. Length will depend on the recording used.	
	I. WALTZING FORWARD, IN AND OUT	
1	Beg R, waltz fwd, moving CCW around the circle.	
2	Continuing CCW, in waltz rhythm, step L fwd (ct 1); face ctr and step R to R (ct 2); step L behind R (ct 3).	
3	Beg R, one waltz step making a full turn R and moving CCW around the circle. End facing CCW.	
4	Facing CCW, in waltz rhythm, step L fwd (ct 1); step R bkwd (ct 2); step L in front of R (ct 3).	
5	Facing CCW, beg R, one Balance-Waltz.	
6	Beg L, one waltz step to make a 1¼ turn L, moving twd ctr, to end facing ctr.	
7	Beg R, one waltz step moving fwd twd ctr, raising arms high.	
8	One waltz step moving bkwd, bringing arms down to sides.	
9-12	Repeat meas 1-4.	
13	Step R fwd (ct 1); brush L fwd (ct 2); step L fwd (ct 3).	
14	Repeat meas 13.	
15-16	Facing ctr, repeat meas 5-6. End facing ctr.	
	II. TURNING IN, REACHING IN AND OUT, CROSSING R AND L	
1	Facing ctr, full turn R in waltz rhythm, moving twd ctr.	
2	Full turn L in waltz rhythm, moving twd ctr.	

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- 3-4 Repeat Fig I, meas 7-8 (waltz fwd and back).
- 5 Step R in front of L, sweeping R arm across body and up (ct 1); step L back in place (ct 2); step R to R, bringing arm out to R and back to side (ct 3).
- 6 Repeat meas 5 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 7 Beg R, one waltz to make a half-turn R to face out of circle.
- 8 Waltz step in place with back to ctr.
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8 facing and moving away from ctr. End facing ctr.

III. BALANCE-WALTZES FACING IN AND OUT

- 1-2 Facing ctr, Balance-Waltz to R and L.
- 3 Large step R to R, sweeping R arm up in an arc to R (ct 1); step L next to R (ct 2), bringing arm around and down to side; hold (ct 3).
- 4 Repeat Fig II, meas 7 (half-turn).
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 with opp ftwk and direction.

Sequence: Fig I twice, Fig II, Fig III, Fig I once, Fig II, Fig III, Fig I meas 1-7

