

Loree

(Armenia)

Loree (lo-REE) is the name of one of the folk regions in Eastern or Caucasian Armenia (Soviet Armenia since 1920), and is located in the northern part of the republic. The dance was learned by Tom Bozigian in 1974 in Yerevan, capital of the Armenian SSR, as a performer at the Gabelee Gordzaran Barakhoomb (Wire Factory Amateur Dance Ensemble). The dance was presented at the 1978 University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp by Mr. Bozigian.

MUSIC: Record: "Tom Bozigian Presents Songs and Dances of the Armenian People". Vol. II, GT 4001
6/4, 6/8 Meter.

FORMATION: Open circle of dancers facing ctr with leader at R end. Little fingers are joined and held down (V Pos.)

STEPS: Walk*, Two-step*, Bounce*, Scissor Kicks*.

STYLING: Posture is erect. Footwork and hand movement is precise and controlled, but relaxed. The steps have a "bouncy" character, given by a bend of the knees (Plie).

*Described in Steps and Styling, published by the Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc., 1275 "A" Street, Room 111, Hayward, California 94541.

MUSIC 6/4, 6/8

PATTERN

Measures

6/4

1-4 INTRODUCTION. No action

I. SLOW VARIATION

1 Step sdwd R (cts 1-3); close L to R (cts 4-6).

2 Turn to face RLOD, walk bkwd LOD on R L R (cts 1-3); Pivot on R ft to face diag L of LOD, touch L toe across in front of R (ct 4); hold (cts 5-6).

3 Turn to face ctr, step L diag bkwd, swing joined hands bkwd (cts 1-2); kick R ft fwd, then up and around in a reverse bicycle peddling motion (ct 3); touch ball of R ft beside L (ct 4), hold (cts 5-6).

Note: Arms follow R ft, after swing bkwd on cts 1-2, the arms describe a circular motion fwd, up and down to rest shoulder level pos, elbows bent (W pos).

4 Step R fwd twd ctr, release little finger hold and clap hands sharply upward a little above eye level (ct 1); bring hands down to sides to rejoin little fingers (cts 2-3); close L ft to R and with knees straight, ft together bounce twice (cts 4-5); hold (ct 6).

5-28 Repeat action of meas 1-4 (Fig I) six more times.

29-30 Repeat action of meas 1-2 (Fig I), on ct 5 of meas 2, step L quickly diag bkwd.

6/8 TRANSITION STEP

Change to a shoulder hold, face diag L of ctr, walk R, L, LOD (cts 1-6). Still moving LOD, walk R (ct 1-3); pivot on R ft to face diag R of ctr RLOD, touch ball of L ft beside R (cts 4-6).

3-4 Repeat action of meas 1-2 (Transition Step), reversing ftwork and direction, except on ct 4-6 (meas 4), step R beside L with wt.

II. FAST VARIATION

- 1 Face ctr, touch L heel with straight knee fwd, R knee is in a slight plie (cts 1-3); raise L knee in front about waist level, draw flexed L ft to inside of R knee (cts 4-6).
 - 2 Twist from waist, touch L heel with straight knee diag L (RLOD) (cts 1-3); step L across R with slight plie, R remains on floor and body mainly turns from waist (cts 4-6).
 - 3 L still in plie, touch R heel with straight knee diag R (LOD) (cts 1-3); pivot on L to face ctr, touch R heel with straight knee fwd (cts 4-6).
 - 4 With knees straight, dance 4 scissor steps in place, R, L, R, L, (cts 1-4). Raise R knee about waist level and bring R ft inward in a reverse bicycle peddling motion (cts 5-6).
 - 5 Hop on L, kick R ft fwd with straight knee (cts 1-2); dance 2 scissor steps in place, R, L, (cts 3-6).
 - 6 Raise R ft to inside of L calf, pivot on L to face diag RLOD, Rknee pointing diag RLOD (cts 1-3); pivot on L to face diag LOD, R knee pointing diag LOD (cts 4-6). Shout "ooh" on ct 1; "Hah" on ct 4.
 - 7 Release shoulder hold, face and move LOD, step R, lower L arm a little, then raise it above head with palm facing away from ctr, R arm extends straight out to R side with palm up (cts 1-2); close L ft to R, arms remain same (cts 3-4); step R fwd LOD, arms remain same, (cts 5-6).
- Meas 7 is a two step in even timing. Cue: cha cha cha.
- 8 Step L across R diag LOD, the arms are at an interim point to sides, upper arms parallel to floor, elbows bent (cts 1-3). On ct 2, take shoulder hold. Ft together, jump on both ft with slight plie, face ctr (cts 5-6).

Repeat action of Fig II, meas 1-8 to end of dance.