

Lusniak

(Armenia)

Lusniak (loos-NYAK) means “Moonlight.” This dance was choreographed by Tineke van Geel in the style of a Shoror type of dance. The general features of a Shoror include a 6-count measure and many steps with a double knee bounce.

In some regions, the movements are traditionally associated with the waggling walk of birds. Therefore, synonyms were *gakavel* (partridge) and *ghaz ghazi* (goose) in the village of Alashkert. In Karin, *tavouk* (a kind of chicken) was used. During the 20th century, Shoror became the general term in most regions, both in former West Armenia and present Armenia. Currently, Shorors are mostly simple, and often women’s, dances.

Tineke presented Lusniak at the 2022 Stockton Folk Dance Camp held at University of the Pacific.

Music: 6/8 Meter Music: Tineke’s 2022 SFDC Flash Drive
Or search for “Lusniak” on YouTube and download the original recording.

Video: 2022 SFDC Videos. Camp videos can be viewed by contacting a camper who has purchased them.

Formation: Mixed, open circle of dancers facing center, hands joined, arms in low W-position with forearms almost parallel to the floor,.

Steps & Styling: Movements are soft and smooth. Knee bounces are soft, not sharp. Eyes look in the direction of the hands, i.e., looking to the right when hands move right, looking left when hands move left.

Meas	6/8 meter	PATTERN
8 cts.		INTRODUCTION. No action. Begin with singing.
	I.	MOVING RIGHT AND LEFT.
1		Step sdwd R with double knee bounce, arms moving slightly R (cts 1-3); step L next to R with double knee bounce, arms returning to low W-pos (cts 4-6).
2		Repeat meas 1 cts 1-3 (cts 1-3); touch ball of L ft next to R with double knee bounce (ct 4); arms return to low W-pos (cts 5-6).
3		Repeat meas 2 with opp ftwk and direction.
4		Step R to R (ct 1); step L behind R (ct 2); step R to R (ct 3); step L across R (cts 4-6). Note: during this meas, arms make full circle to R, ending slightly L of orig low W-pos.
5-8		Repeat meas 1-4.
	II.	TO THE CENTER AND BACK, THEN MOVING RIGHT.
1		Step R fwd, arms swinging down (cts 1-3); touch ball of L ft beside R (ct 4); double knee bounce (cts 5-6).
2		Small step L bkwd with double knee bounce (cts 1-3); small step R bkwd (ct 4); double knee bounce (cts 5-6). Note: During this meas, arms return slowly to low W-pos.

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- 3 Step L across R with hand movement sharply bending the wrist downward (cts 1-2); step R to R on ball of ft, hands coming back to orig pos (ct 3); repeat cts 1-3 (cts 4-6).
- 4 Repeat meas 3, cts 1-5 (cts 1-5); hold (ct 6).
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.
- III. TRANSITION.
- 1-2 Repeat Fig I, meas 1 twice.

Sequence: Repeat as noted above three times; then Figure I until the music fades.