

Mesho Harsner

(Armenian)

Mesho Harsner means “Brides from Moush.” Moush is a town in Anatolia and used to be the center of the Daron region in former West Armenia, present day Turkey. The title refers to the melody and has no connection to the elements of the dance. Tineke van Geel choreographed this dance based on movements that are done in traditional dances from Moush. The dance was presented by Tineke at the 2021 Stockton Folk Dance Winter Weekend held via Zoom.

Music: 6/4, except Fig III, which is 4/4

CD: Ararat - Armenian dances, which can be purchased from Tineke van Geel

Video: *2021 SFDWW Downloads*. To view, contact a camper who donated to camp and received access to the downloads.

Formation: Mixed open circle, hands joined, arms in low W-position, facing center.

Meas	6/4 meter	PATTERN
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INTRODUCTION. None; or wait 4 meas and begin dance with meas 5.

I. FIGURE I.

- 1 Step R to R, forearms moving in a circular downward movement to R (ct 1); step L behind R (ct 2); step R to R (ct 3); step L in front of R, forearms moving in a circular downward movement to L (ct 4); hold (cts 5-6).
- 2 Repeat meas 1
- 3 Step R fwd twd ctr with R knee bent, turning to face diag L, arms coming down and then up to a 90° fwd pos twd ctr, L elbow is bent, R arm stretched, palms of hands up (cts 1-3); touch ball of L beside R, bounce knees, turn palms in, to finish facing down, using cts 4-6 and make this a slow turning movement (ct 4); bounce knees (ct 5); hold (ct 6).
- 4 Step L bkwd, while to face away from ctr, and arms come back to W-pos through a small downward movement (cts 1-3); step R beside L, bounce knees (ct 4); bounce knees (ct 5); hold (ct 6).
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 with opp ftwk and dir.
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8 three times.

II. FIGURE II Starts after a 1-second break in the music.

- 1 Bounce on L, forearms moving R as a windshield wiper (ct 1); step R to R (ct &); step L beside R, bringing arms back to W-pos (ct 2); step R in place, knees slightly bent, arms coming down (ct 3); lift L lower leg bkwd, turning L knee in and stretching knees (ct 4); touch L heel fwd, L leg straight, arms coming back to W-pos (ct 5); hold (ct 6).
- 2 Bounce on R, lift L leg with L knee across R leg, forearms moving L as a windshield wiper (ct 1); step L to L (ct &); step R in front of L, arms returning to W-pos (ct 2); step L beside R, with knees slightly bent and arms coming down (ct 3); lift R lower leg bkwd with R knee turned in, and stretch knees (ct 4); touch R heel fwd, R leg straight, bringing arms back to W-pos (ct 5); hold (ct 6).
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2.
- 5 Repeat meas 1.

Mesho Harsner – continued

- 6 Touch L heel diag L, with R knee bent and upper body bent slightly fwd (ct 1); maintaining body position, touch L heel slightly sideways (ct 2); touch L heel to L (ct 3); jump onto L, facing L, and lift R lower leg bkwd with R knee turned in (ct 4); turn to face ctr and touch R heel fwd with R leg straight (ct 5); hold (ct 6).
- 7-8 Repeat meas 5-6.
- III. FIGURE III. Change to 4/4 meter.
- 1 Bounce on R, lift L leg with L knee across R leg, forearms moving L as a windshield wiper (ct 1); step L to L (ct &); step R in front of L, arms returning to W-pos (ct 2); step L beside R, with knees slightly bent and arms coming down (ct 3); lift R lower leg bkwd with R knee turned in, and stretch knees (ct 4); touch R heel fwd, R leg straight, bringing arms back to W-pos (ct 5); hold (ct 6).
- 2 Repeat meas 1-2.
- 3 Repeat meas 1.
- 4 Touch L heel diag L, with R knee bent and upper body bent slightly fwd (ct 1); maintaining body position, touch L heel slightly sideways (ct 2); touch L heel to L (ct 3); jump onto L, facing L, and lift R lower leg bkwd with R knee turned in (ct 4); turn to face ctr and touch R heel fwd with R leg straight (ct 5); hold (ct 6).
- 5-8 Repeat meas 5-6.



Tineke van Geel at Stockton Camp 2019.

Sequence: Fig I, (break in music), Fig II two times, Fig III, Fig II.