Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc., December 2024
Dance Research Committee: Lothar Narins, Mady Newfield, Martha Awdziewicz, Joyce Clyde

Rakkas

(Turkey)

Rakkas (rah-KAHS) means "dancer." Ahmet Lüleci choreographed it in 1996. The choreography of the dance has its roots in Turkish, Arabic, and Israeli movements in honor of a peace treaty between Israel and the Arab nations announced while Ahmet was on tour in Turkey. The song for Rakkas is Işık Doğudan Yükselir and it is sung by famous Turkish pop singer Sezen Aksi, who wrote the lyrics with Yelda Karataş. The music was composed by Attila Özdemiroğlu. This dance was presented by Ahmet at the 2024 Stockton Folk Dance Camp held at the University of the Pacific. He has taught it on five continents.

Music: 4/4 meter CD: To get his music, contact Ahmet at: ahmet.luleci@gmail.com.

Video: 2024 SFDC Downloads. To view, contact a camper who received access to the downloads. There is at least one video on YouTube.

Formation: Open circle, facing diag R, hands joined in V-pos.

Steps & Styling: Many movements have a "down-up-up" feel to them. When feet are apart, the left leg is always slightly closer to the ctr than the right.

Meas	4/4 meter PATTERN
4 meas	INTRODUCTION. No action.
I.	WALKING, BOUNCES IN PLACE.
1	Facing ctr, step R to R (ct 1); step L across R (ct 2); repeat (cts 3-4).
2	Step R to R with bent knees leaving L in place slightly twd ctr (ct 1); two quick bounces up in place R (cts 2, &); take wt on L with bent knees (ct 3); small kick back with R (ct &); touch R in place (ct 4); small kick back with R (ct &).
3-8	Repeat meas 1-2 three times.
II.	STEP-HOP-STEPS, KICK-STEP-STEP, BOUNCE IN PLACE.
1	Facing ctr, small step R to R with bent knees (ct 1); hop on R (ct 2); step L in front of R (ct &); repeat cts 1, 2, & (cts 3, 4, &).
2	Hop on L, touching R heel across twd ctr (ct 1); run two steps CCW R-L (cts &, 2); jump on both with ft apart, knees bent (ct 3); bounce on both (ct 4); hop on L in place, lifting R behind (ct &).
3-8	Repeat meas 1-2 three times.
III.	MOVING TO CENTER, TURN TO FACE OUT, MOVE OUT, FACE CENTER AGAIN.
1	Facing ctr, moving fwd, leading with R heel, step-together-step (cts 1, &, 2); repeat with opp ftwk (cts 3, &, 4).
2	Hop on L (ct 1); two small steps fwd R-L (cts &, 2); hop on L, hooking R heel fwd and across (ct 3); leap R fwd, lifting L behind (ct 4).
3	Bring L fwd sharply in front of R and jump on both in place with knees bent (ct 1); bounce "up" twice in place (cts 2, &); jump on both in place with knees bent (ct 3); bounce "up" in place (ct 4); take wt on L, bringing R heel up (ct &).
4	Take wt back on R again, bending R knee, straightening L, pulling hips back (ct 1); take wt fwd onto L, bending both knees and pushing hips fwd (ct 2); repeat ct 1 (ct 3); leap on L, turning R (CW) to face out (turning 180° CW), lifting R with bent knee (ct 4).

5	Repeat meas 1 moving away from ctr.
6	Repeat meas 2, cts 1, &, 2, twice (cts 1, &, 2, 3, &, 4).
7	Jump on both (ct 1); hop on R, lift L in front of R (ct 2); repeat opp ftwk (cts 3, 4).
8	Touch R heel fwd (ct 1); step R in place, pulling L shldr back and turning CCW to face ctr (ct 2); touch L heel fwd (ct 3); step L in place (ct 4).
9-16	Repeat meas 1-8.

Sequence: Fig I four times, Fig II, Fig III
Fig I five times, Fig II, Fig III
Fig I four times, Fig II, Fig III

Ending: Repeat Fig III, meas 1-3; on meas 4, instead of turning on ct 4, step L to ctr. Then facing ctr, step R fwd (ct 1); step L beside R (ct &), extending arms up and saying "Salla!" (meaning "shake it!")

Ahmet Lüleci and Aaron Alpert dancing Rakkas at Stockton Folk Dance Camp 2024.