

Agh Anoush

(Armenia/U.S.A.)

The name of the dance given here is merely that of the song title. The dance itself is so common and generic in Armenian communities it barely seems to have a name. Shawn Donaldson, from whom I learned this version in 2006, referred to it as "the Armenian shuffle." Versions of it crop up in many dances such as "Ooska Gookas," "Seroon Aghchik," "Seero Yerk," etc. As a slow and simple dance, it serves well as a beginning warm-up for an evening of dancing. Place of origin: Armenian community of Detroit, MI.

Pronunciation: AHGKH ah-NOOSH

CD: Ara Topouzian Ensemble: *Live From Detroit*, Disc 1 Track 4.

Rhythm: 6/8 meter, counted 1-2, 3, 4-5-6, or slow-quick-slower, or S Q SR.

Formation: Open or closed circle of dancers holding little fingers at shoulder level and moving CCW in the big circle.

Meas

Pattern

FIGURE

- 1 Facing R of ctr, step on R, circling hands fwd (ct. S); step on L next to R (ct Q); step on R, circling hands fwd again (ct SR).
- 2 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk, but continue to move in the same direction.
- 3 Facing ctr, step on R to R side (cts S, Q); step on L behind R (ct SR). Throughout this meas, hands gradually swing down to V-pos.
- 4 Step on R to R side, slowly raising hands back to shldr level (cts S, Q); step on L across in front of R (ct SR).
- 5 Pivot on L and step on R across in front of L (cts S,Q); step on L to L side (ct S).
- 6 Step on R across behind L (cts S,Q); step on L to L side (ct SR).

Notes by Erik Bendix

Presented by Erik Bendix