

Dar Gorani

(Armenia)

Gorani is a style or family of dances, sometimes also called Daronee (or "from Daron") from the valleys of Moush, Sassoun, and Daron in western Armenia, an area that is now eastern Turkey that was inhabited by Armenians from the 8th century BCE until the Armenian genocide of 1915. As Laura Shannon writes in her pamphlet "Gorani:" "Gorani is also a term of endearment: the longing for the lost homeland and the lost beloved are one." This is a women's dance. Learned from Eddie Djololian, 2002.

Pronunciation: dahr goh-RAH-nee

CD: *Armenian Dances* CD made available by Eddie Djololian.

2/4 meter

Formation: Open circle of W standing separately within arm's reach of each other, arms at sides.

Meas

Pattern

PART I

- 1 Step on R twd ctr, gradually lifting the top side of R wrist in front, trailing hanging fingers in its wake (ct 1); allow slight flex in R knee while continuing to lift R wrist to above eye level (ct &); touch ball of L ft next to R while dipping gently into both knees (ct 2); dip again into both knees (ct &).
 - 2 Step diag back on L to L while opening R hand to begin sweeping it down across in front of waist twd L side (ct 1); allow slight bending L knee while continuing to sweep R hand to the L (ct &); touch ball of R foot next to L while allowing R elbow to bend so that R hand sweeps up to beside L ear, bending both knees gently (ct 2); bend both knees again (ct &).
 - 3 Step on R to R side, sweeping top side of R wrist up to the R above eye level, trailing hanging fingers (cts 1&); close L ft next to R while sweeping palm side of the wrist back to hanging next to hips, fingers again trailing as if stroking something with one's palm (cts 2 &).
 - 4 Step twd ctr on R, gradually lifting both wrists twd ctr to eye level, trailing hanging fingers with an open hand (ct 1); step on L next to R, allowing wrist direction to shift from lift to fall while fingers trail into extension (ct &); step away from ctr on R, gradually allowing both wrists to fall back to sides, fingers trailing as if stroking something down with palms (ct 2); step on L next to R, allowing hands to fall (ct &).
- 5-24 Repeat meas 1-4 five more times.

PART II:

- 1 Moving twd ctr with small steps, knees initially a bit bent and rising twd standing at the end with wrists lifting twd ctr to above eye level, step R-L-R-L (cts 1,ee,&,uh); step on R next to L coming fully upright and flicking both hands skyward (ct 2); pause (ct &).
- 2 Leaving L hand above, rotate R elbow inward across face and down to the L, allowing this movement not only to draw the R hand down to L but also to twist the entire torso to the L, bending knees to swing a bit CCW to L side, while free heels swing to point a bit R (ct 1); repeat ct 1 in opp direction, but leaving R hand at side (ct 2).

Dar Gorani—continued

- 3 Lift R palm up twd ctr and when it reaches chest level, turn it face down to extend twd ctr while stepping away from ctr on R (ct 1); leaving R hand extended toward center, repeat arms in opp direction while stepping away from center on L (ct 2).
- 4 Draw R hand to L shldr and L hand to R shldr so forearms are crossed in front of chest as you step back on R (ct 1); step back on L (ct &); draw both hands back to sides while stepping back on R (ct 2); step on L next to R (ct &).
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.

PART III

- 1 Facing to the L in the circle, step fwd on R, drawing back of R wrist up to shldr level, trailing hanging fingers (ct 1); step fwd on L, drawing back of L wrist up while allowing R wrist to softly sink (ct 2).
- 2 Facing L but moving bkwd, step back on R while quickly drawing R wrist up and allowing L wrist to sink (ct 1); continue moving back while drawing L wrist up and allowing R wrist to sink (ct &); repeat cts 1, & (cts. 2,&).
- 3 Grapevine: Step on R to R side, while leading R wrist twd R side (ct 1); step on L across in front of R while completing bringing R wrist to R side (ct &); step on R to R side, rotating the back of the hand to face L and begin sweeping R wrist twd L side (ct 2); step on L across behind R, bringing R wrist further across twd L (ct &).
- 4 Repeat meas 3.
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4, ending with both hands floating down to the sides.

From here, the dance returns to Part I.

The whole dance ends on a delayed and slowed repeat of Part I, meas 3.

Notes by Erik Bendix
Presented by Erik Bendix