

## Gorani

(Armenia)

Translation: Dance from Daron, a region in former West Armenia, present Anatolia (Turkey). Source: Artushat Karapetian, Pedagogic Institute, Armenia 1988. It is a mixed line dance. Originally the men danced from right to left (RLOD) and the women from left to right (LOD). The movements are slow and the music has a serene atmosphere. This is connected with moving partly in RLOD which was traditionally connected with mourning or death. Some researchers tend to believe that Gorani is connected with the god of battle Khor and that it is symbolic to misfortune that one may encounter in life.

Gorani is derived from Khergour, the name of a mountain in Daron. Khergour was nicknamed Khor because the people believed that this god lived on the mountain. Khor was worshipped in time of suffering.

The dance was also performed as part of a suite of dances from the Daron region by the former State Dance Ensemble in a choreographed form by Azad Charibian.

The song dates back to Middle Ages and was originally a love song performed on celebrations in Daron, Sasoun and Shatagh. The text has been changed frequently. There are many versions of the lyrics and nowadays the content is usually melancholic and deals for example with bad harvest, a plea for rain, a lost love etc.

Pronunciation:

Music: "Anoush - Armenian dances" (Van Geel Records 98/07) 5/4 meter

Formation: Mixed lines, hands joined in W-pos, face ctr.

Meas Pattern

2 meas INTRODUCTION

### FIGURE

- 1 Lift R leg with L ft at calf level of L, move fore arms slightly L and down with a circular movement, torso leans L (ct &); step on R to R (R knee bent), forearms move to W-pos (ct 1); close L beside R, stretch knees to relevée, torso straight (ct 2); bounce with heels lifted from floor (ct 3); bounce with heels lifted from floor (ct 4); no action (ct 5).
- 2-8 Repeat meas 1 seven times.
- 9 Step fwd to ctr with L (L knee bent), bring fore arms slightly fwd and down back to W-pos ("row the boat fwd") (ct 1); close R beside L, stretch knees to relevée (ct 2); bounce with heels lifted from floor, bounce arms (ct 3); bounce with heels lifted from floor, bounce arms (ct 4); no action (ct 5).
- 10 Step bkwd with R (R knee bent), bring forearms slightly fwd and down back to W-pos ("row the boat fwd") (ct 1); close L beside R, stretch knees to relevée (ct 2); bounce with heels lifted from floor, bounce arms (ct 3); bounce with heels lifted from floor, bounce arms (ct 4); no action (ct 5).
- 11 Step L to L, bring arms to R (R arm stretched at chest level in front of R neighbor, L arm sharply fold in front of own body) (cts 1-3); close R beside L, arms back to W pos (ct 4); no action (ct 5).

## Gorani—continued

- 12 Repeat meas 11.  
13-16 Repeat meas 9-12.

## Lyrics:

En Msho dasha kasin manr ou hiner  
Snouchik me keshnchi ir djanin mernem  
Gorani, gorani, jarem gorani  
Khabrik me khosatsir darderos degner

Alashkert Manazkert duran ou khotov  
Mer jari tsotsere akh anoush hofov  
Gorani gorani, jarem gorani  
Yes kitem aslik jar, shat kharoti

The field of Moush, they say, was a small and strong place  
She is breathing, I'll die for her body  
Gorani, gorani, my beloved Gorani  
Promise some news, that is medicine for my pain

Alashkert and Manazkert are empty and full of grass  
My beloved's body smells nice  
Gorani Gorani my beloved Gorani  
I know my brave beloved misses me very much

Presented by Tineke van Geel  
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