

HAYGAGAN MARCH
(Armenia)

Armenian stage dance introduced into the U.S. by Ashod Azruni and Haigaz Mgrditchian in the 1940s. Although HAYGAGAN MARCH was designed as an entrance dance to move a group onstage or off dramatically, the dance contains many folk elements. The basic step pattern is similar to the "Iraqi", a popular folk dance of the Assyrians (Nestorians). The dance is particularly appealing to small children who enjoy the "conga line" formation and easy steps.

Pronunciation: HIGH-guh-gahn Translation: Armenian March

Source: Haigaz Mgrditchian

Music: Gyondbashi (Tape) 2/4 meter

Style: Relaxed happy carriage and gestures.

Formation: Line of dancers standing single file with L hand on shldr of person in front. Leader puts L hand on hip.

MeasPatternWALKING

- 1 Step fwd solidly small distance with R, turning upper torso slightly to R and extending R hand to R side with palm up (ct 1); step fwd L as upper torso turns back to orig pos and R arm is brought across torso with palm down (ct 2).
- 2-8 Repeat meas 1 seven times (cts 3-16).

SINGLE HEEL

- 1 Extend R heel to R diag, extending R palm to R (ct 1); step R in place bringing R hand in front of body, palm down (ct 2).
- 2 Extend L heel to L diag, extending R hand to L, palm up (ct 3); step L in place bringing R hand in front of body, palm down (ct 4).
- 3-8 Repeat meas 1-2 three times (cts 5-16).

WALKING

- 1-8 Repeat Walking sequence as above (cts 1-16).

DOUBLE HEEL

- 1-2 Extend R heel to R diag, extending R hand to R, palm up (ct 1); lift R next to L calf turning R palm down (ct 2). Extend R heel to R diag, turning R palm up (ct 3); step R in place drawing R hand in front of body, palm down (ct 4).
- 3-4 Extend L heel to L diag, extending R hand to L, palm up (ct 5); lift L next to R calf, turning R palm down (ct 6). Extend L heel to L diag turning R palm up (ct 7); step L in place drawing R hand in front of body, palm down (ct 8).
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 (cts 9-16).
- Repeat dance from beginning.

HAYGAGAN MARCH (Continued)

NOTE: Very small children may find difficulty in coordinating the feet and arm gestures simultaneously. If problems arise, have only the leader use the gestures, and have the rest hold on with both hands (R hand on R shldr, L hand on L).

Another element one can add in is having the students look down at their feet as they extend their heels. If so, make sure they do not look down during the walking step, to provide a contrasting element.

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