

KOCHAREE  
(Armenia)

This dance is also called "HALE" or "HALAEE" by original Armenian immigrants from Western Armenia, which today takes up much of the eastern part of Turkey. It is one of the most popular Armenian dances and is done throughout the world. There are many regional styles and figures. This particular KOCHAREE was researched in several northwestern regions of Soviet Armenia - Leninkan, Spitak, Artic, Talin - but has spread throughout the republic. In the higher mountain areas where the shepherds -- "Hooveev" in Armenian -- are grazing their herds during the hot summer, KOCHAREE is the most popular dance. The orchestra consists of two Zurna -- a double-reeded, conical pipe with one producing the melody and the other holding the main drone or "Dam;" and one double-skinned drum called "Duhol." Some of the more complex movements are called "Ghoch," from the butting of the mountain ram and the "Krachadzev," learned from the jumping style of the mountain deer. The dance was learned by Tom Bozigian as a youngster in Los Angeles during the summer, early 1950s.

Pronunciation:

Record: "Tom Bozigian Presents Songs and Dances of the Armenian People." Vol. II, GT 4001. 2/4 and 6/8 meter

Formation: Mixed line dance with the dancers facing ctr and drawn closely side by side with palms grasped and fingers interlocked, plus arms straight down at sides. Leader, called "Paree-Glookh," is at R and waves a handkerchief with free hand over the head throughout the dance.

Meas

Pattern

2/4 meter	<u>FIGURE I.</u>
1	Moving sdwd, step R to R (ct 1). (Note: As the dance gets on, the participant has the option to make the initial R step a small double-bounce (cts 1,&).) Step L beside R as R lifts slightly off floor (ct 2).
2	Step R to R with slight pli� (ct 1); double-bounce twice in place with R as L remains to L, touching floor (cts 2,&).
3	Switch body wt to L with slight pli� (ct 1); switch body wt again to R with double-bounce (cts 2,&).
4	Switch wt again to L with slight pli� (ct 1); slight hop on L in place as R knee raises in front and heel lifts behind (ct 2).

KOCHAREE (continued)6/8 meter FIGURE II.

- 1 Quickly switching arm hold to grasp shldrs of adjoining dancers, hop on L to R as R knee raises in front and R heel is pulled sharply behind to calf level (ct &); step R to R with slight plié (cts 1-3); leap L across R still in slight plié (cts 4-6).
- 2 Leap R to R as ball of L touches beside R (cts 1-3); hop R in place as L ft raises in front above floor, knee at waist level (cts 4-6).
- 3 Leap L in place as ball of R ft, with heel turned in, touches floor in front of L (cts 1-3); repeat this action with opp ftwk (cts 4-6).
- 4 Repeat action of cts 1-3 (meas 3, Fig. II); hop on L in place as R knee, bent, raises in front, waist level, not across (cts 4-5). Note: The dance begins on ct 6 as described in meas 1, ct & of Fig. II.

Presented by Tom Bozigian