Shawali

(Armenia)

Translation: No uniform explanation. One version mentions a village in Lori, where "Shawerdian" frequently occurred as a family name. The most popular dance from that village got as a nickname "Sha(h)wali."

Source: Traditional dance, Pedagogical Institute Yerevan.

Pronunciation:

Music: "Hayastan-Armenian Dances" 6/8 meter

Formation: Short lines, little fingers interlocked, R one "on top," arms in "W" position, facing center.

Meas	Ct	Pattern
4 meas		INTRODUCTION. No action.
		FIGURE I.
1	1-3	Step on R to R, arms moving to R.
	4-6	Step on L across R, arms moving to L.
2	1-2	Step bkwd on R.
	3	Step on ball of L ft beside R.
	4-6	Step on R beside L.
3	1-2	Step fwd on L.
	3	Step on ball of R ft beside L.
	4-6	Step on L beside R.
4	1-3	Step on R to R, while turning 1/4 CW, arms coming down (facing LOD).
	4-6	Step on L.
5	1-2	Step on R to L, arms coming into "Debka position" (R hand on back, facing RLOD).
	3	Step on ball of L ft beside R.
	4-6	Step on R.
		During meas 5, cts 1-3, the torso is slightly moving twd R, the R shldr is slightly behind in an open pos of the torso twds the center.
6		Repeat meas 5 with opp ftwk, the torso slightly moving twd L, shldr pos is not changing.
7-8		Repeat meas 5-6.
		FIGURE II.
		The arms come back to "W" pos at the beginning of meas 1 with a continuing movement of the arms twd R.
1-4		Repeat Fig I, meas 1-4.
5-8		Repeat Fig I, meas 5-8, without moving the torso. Arms make a circle of 225° CCW. At the first quarter of the circle, the R arm is stretched twd the R (L elbow bent at chest level), coming through a full stretched vertical position of both arms, ending with the L arm stretched twd the L (R elbow bent at chest level) in horizontal position.

The two figures are alternated as directed by the first dancer of each line.

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