

Heyamo

(Kurdish, E. Turkey)



Laz work song from the Eastern Black Sea region of Turkey. Heyamo was collected and arranged by Birol Topaloglu, translated by Brenna. Birol is a Turkish Laz musician. The Laz people are a minority group who live in the mountainous regions of eastern Turkey around the Black Sea. Their language is related to Mingrelian Georgian. It is very unusual to find harmonized songs in Turkey and the harmony in this tune is very much a part of the Georgian influence in their culture.

As the borders were drawn up between Turkey and the Soviet Union, the planners used natural boundaries like rivers and mountains to establish their lines. Some of these went straight through communities. Because of the tensions between the two countries it became impossible to carry on daily life on both sides of a river. To visit relatives on the Turkish side, for example, Soviet-siders would first have to travel to Moscow, then Istanbul and Ankara, and finally on an uncomfortable overland journey, a total of thousands of miles—just to reach a destination that was in effect a stone's throw away—or risk being shot at by border guards. The villagers used songs to communicate what was happening on their side of the border, letting the other side know who was getting married, how the harvest was going, and so on. The songs were sent freely from one side of the valley to the other because their language was unknown to most soldiers posted at the watch points.

Pronunciation: HAY AH-moh

Music: Ahmet Lüleci CD #4, Band 1.

4/4 meter

Formation: Arms bent from the elbows, parallel to the ground.



Cts

Pattern

FIGURE 1

- | | |
|----|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | Facing center, step on R to R. |
| 2 | Step on L to R, crossing R. |
| 3 | Step on R to R. |
| 4 | Quick step on L to R, crossing R. |
| & | Quick step on R to R. |
| 5 | Step on L to R, crossing R. |
| 6 | Quick step on R to R. |
| 7 | Step on R to R. |
| 8 | Touch L next to R. |
| 9 | Step on L to L. |
| 10 | Step on R to R. |
| 11 | Step on L to L. |
| 12 | Touch R next to L. |

Described and presented by Ahmet Lüleci © 2003



Heyamo—continued

Song Words

He He Heyamo, yamo hemo heyamo, heyamoli heyamo	He he heyamo,
He He Heyamo Dadis ugun noderi, dadis ugun noderi	Your aunt is having a working party
He He Heyamo Dopxaskat do vigzalat, dopxaskat do vigzalat	Let's dig and go
He He Heyamo Mani mani dalepe, mani mani dalepe	Quickly sisters quickly
He He Heyamo So bzirat ham ndgalepe, so bzirat ham ndgalepe	When do we find such fine days?

He He heyamo Zeni ckunis noderi, zeni ckunis noderi	The work party is on our flatlands
Tutaste iven seri, tutaste iven seri	The moonlight fills the night
Vibirt xacker xackeri, vibirt xacker xackeri	We sing as we dig
Hem seri hem ndgaleri, hem seri em ndgaleri	All day and all night

Andga kai taroni, andga kai taroni	Today the weather is very fine
Dadi soren termoni, dadi soren termoni	Where is Aunt Termoni?
Ora mokilu ordo, ora mokilu ordo	The time passes so quickly
Opskomat komogi do, opskomat komogi do	Let's go and eat.