

ŞEYH ŞAMİL  
(Turkey)

This dance bears the name of a legendary Azerbaijani freedom-fighter who battled the Russians at the turn of the century. The steps characterize the bravery with which he fought. The dance was introduced in the United States by Ercüment Kiliç in May, 1979 in Minneapolis, Minnesota and has been choreographed with variations for recreational and performing purposes. Ercüment learned ŞEYH ŞAMİL as a child in the Azerbaijani-Turkish community.

**Pronunciation:**

**Record:** Ercüment Kiliç Presents: Music of Turkey and Azerbaijan  
Hindi 002; Turkic 201. 2/4 meter

**Formation:** Couples in a circle.

**Styling:** Caucasian Man's Arm Position (CMAP): L arm at shldr level with elbow bent (arm and fist never touching body), closed fist pointed downward. R arm extended to side at shldr level, closed fist pointed downward.

Azerbaijani-Turkish Woman's Hand Movements (WHM): R hand moves diag fwd to R, palm turned inward, while L hand is brought twd body, palm turned outward; L palm inward as R hand is brought twd body and L hand moves diag fwd to L. Action is repeated in a very smooth and flowing manner. Generally the head is turned twd the hand moving away from body. (There are several variations on these hand movements which will be demonstrated as necessary.)

Extremely smooth, typical Azerbaijani-Turkish styling.

Meas

Pattern

Introduction (Rubato tempo) -- W approaches inside circle; kneel. M approaches W from the L running, and leaps. M touches L toe beside R toe; backs of hands placed on hips.

Figure 1

- 1 M touches L toe (ct 1); step L twd ctr (ct &); while turning CCW; touch R toe (ct 2); step R twd ctr, still turning (ct &).
- 2 Repeat meas 1.
- 3 Touch L toe while leaning R shldr into ctr (ct 1); step back on L away from ctr and begin turning CW (ct &); touch R toe (ct 2); step R away from ctr, still turning CW (ct &).
- 4 Repeat meas 3.
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.

W remains kneeling during Fig 1; rise and remain in place twd end of Fig.

SEYH ŞAMİL (Continued)Figure 2

- 1 Man: Facing LOD, M beg smooth walking steps (always on balls of ft), starting on R with 4 steps per meas. M assumes CMAP, R arm extended.  
Woman: Facing LOD, travel in LOD with same smooth walking steps used by M. L arm raised in front of body, R arm extended slightly at side (manner is very feminine); W stays in front of ptr's R arm throughout
- 2-8 Repeat meas 1 seven times

Figure 3

- 1-2 Man: Arms switch to CMAP with L arm extended, travel away from ctr, pulling R slightly back, then continuing walking step, 4 steps per meas.  
Woman: Arms in opp pos, pull R slightly back, then continue walking steps, travel with ptr away from ctr, 4 steps per meas.
- 3-4 M and W: Repeat meas 1-2 (cts 1,&,2) in opp direction.  
 5-6 M and W: Repeat meas 1-2.  
 7-8 M and W: Repeat meas 3-4.

Figure 4

- 1-16 Man: Kneel on L knee facing ctr; clap to music rhythm; watch ptr.
- 1-8 Woman: Circle ptr CW, 4 steps per meas, L arm up; R arm at side.
- 9-16 Turn and circle ptr CCW with same steps; arms change pos.

Figure 5

- 1 Man: Knee Turn - Lower R knee to floor (ct 1); turning CW, swivel on L knee to face outside circle (ct &); continue turning in LOD to face inside circle; step on R ft, L knee still on floor (ct 2); jump up off floor (ct &).
- 2-7 Facing ctr, jump onto both ft with R in front (ct 1); jump onto both ft, legs spread apart (ct &); jump onto both ft with L in front (ct 2); jump onto both ft, legs apart (ct &). Backs of hands on hips.
- 8 Repeat cts 1,& of meas 2 (cts 1,&); hop twice on L ft (cts 2,&).
- 1 Woman: In place, facing ctr, step R fwd (ct 1); step L in place (ct &); step R in back (ct 2); step L in place (ct &).
- 2-8 Repeat meas 1. Arms slightly extended away from body at sides.

Figure 6

- 1 Man: Moving to R, jump on R, L in back (ct 1); still moving R, jump on L and kick R fwd (ct &); repeat for cts 2,&.
- 2 Continue moving to R, jump on R (ct 1); jump on L and kick R fwd (ct &); jump on R (ct 2); hop on R (ct &).
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk and direction.  
 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.  
 1-8 Woman: Continue step done in Fig 5.

ŞEYH ŞAMİL (Continued)Figure 7

- 1-16 Man: Kneel on L knee, facing ctr and clap to music rhythm. Get up at end of Fig.
- 1 Woman: Traveling to R, swivel toes in LOD (ct 1); swivel heels in LOD (ct 2). (Hands - Variation on WHM.)
- 2-8 Repeat meas 1.
- 9-16 Traveling in opp direction, use same ftwk, begin with heels swiveling. (Hands - Variation on WHM.)

Figure 8

- 1-16 Man: Moving in LOD, facing RLOD, travel with walking steps (Fig 2). Arms in CMAP with L arm extended.
- 1-16 Woman: Travel with walking steps (Fig 2); stay facing ptr; L arm extended in front of body and R slightly extended at side throughout Fig.

Dance repeats from beginning.

Presented by Ercüment Kiliç