

Tamzara

(Armenia)

Tamzara is both known as a song and as a dance. It is a man's name. There are many varieties of this dance, because it was known in many regions in various forms. In Arapkir (former West Armenia) the name is said to be derived from the following anecdote. The leader of a village offered his guests his hospitality and always called for his daughter-in-law Zara to serve them "tan" (yoghurt mixed with salt and water). Therefore he called her by saying: "Tan, Zara!" According to the ancient storytellers, from then on the village name was changed to Tanzara. How the name of the dance fits into the story remains kind of a mystery. Fact is that all Tamzaras are in a 9/8 beat (short-short-short-long). This version was taught by Paylak Sarkisian, and adapted by Tineke van Geel

Pronunciation: tahn-zah-RAH

Music: *Barev-Armenian Dances*, Band 10.

Rhythm: All Tamzaras are in a 9/8 meter (short-short-short-long).

Formation: Line, hands are joined in W-pos a little forward, face ctr.

Meas Pattern

6 meas INTRODUCTION: Flute solo plus 4 measures

I. DOUBLE STAMP (BASIC)

- 1 Step sdwd on R to R, forearms make a windshield wiper move to R (ct 1); step on L across behind R, forearms make a windshield wiper move to L (ct 3-4); step sdwd on R to R, arms back to central pos (cts 5-6); stamp L beside R, no wt (ct 7); stamp L beside R, no wt (ct 8); hold (ct 9).
- 2 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 3 Step fwd to ctr on R, arms start swaying down (cts 1-2); step fwd to ctr on L, arms finish coming down (cts 3-4); step fwd to ctr on R, arms back in W-pos (cts 5-6); stamp L beside R, no wt (ct 7); stamp L beside R, no wt (ct 8); hold (ct 9).
- 4 Repeat meas 3 with opp ftwk bkwd.

II. HALF CIRCLES

(Release hands, arms remain in W- pos, turn to face LOD.)

- 1 Step fwd on R. (cts 1-2); step fwd on L (cts 3-4); step fwd on R. (cts 5-6); step on R beside L and bounce heels off the floor, clap hands at chest level (face out) (ct 7); bounce heels off the floor, clap hands (ct 8); hold (ct 9).
- 2 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk.

Tanzara—continued

Note: During meas 1-2 you move fwd in LOD. When R ft starts (meas 1) you make a small curve/semi circle moving slightly into the circle, finish on ct 7 facing out, back on the orig line, but progressed in LOD. When L ft starts, you make a small curve/semi circle slightly out of the circle, finish on ct 7 facing in, back on the orig line, but progressed in LOD.

3-4 Repeat meas 1-2.

III. IN AND OUT WITH JUMP

- 1 Step fwd to ctr on R, arms move sway (cts 1-2); step fwd to ctr on L, and bring arms down (cts 3-4); step fwd to ctr on R, arms back in W-pos (cts 5-6); stamp L beside R, no wt (ct 7); stamp L beside R, no wt (ct 8); hold (ct 9).
- 2 Repeat meas 1 fwd but with opp ftwk.
- 3 Step bkwd on R (arms are in W-pos (cts 1-2); step bkwd on L (cts 3-4); jump onto both ft (closed pos), clap hands at chest level (ct 5); hands sway down (ct 6); step bkwd on R, arms down in V-pos (ct 7); step bkwd on L (ct 8); hold (ct 9).
- 4 Repeat meas 3 (arms back in W-pos on ct 1).
- 5 Arms come back to W-pos, no hand hold, step fwd on R (cts 1-2); step fwd on L (cts 3-4); step fwd on R (cts 5-6); step on R beside L and bounce heels off the floor, clap hands at chest level (face RLOD) (ct 7); bounce heels off the floor, clap hands (ct 8); hold (ct 9).
- 6 Step fwd on L (cts 1-2); step fwd on R (cts 3-4); step fwd on L (cts 5-6); step on R beside L and bounce heels off the floor, (face ctr) (ct 7); bounce heels off the floor (ct 8); hold (ct 9).

Note: During meas 5-6 make a full turn CW in place, describing a small circle.

SEQUENCE: Only at beg of the dance, Fig I is danced twice.

Presented by Tineke van Geel