

Papouri

Փափուրի

Place of origin: Throughout Armenia, particularly the areas of Moush, Sasoun, Daron or Taron, and Alashkert in greater western Armenia, today eastern Turkey.

Pronunciation: pah-pou-REE

Translation: The word 'Papouri' or 'Papuri' may refer to a girl's name, or may derive from the French word 'potpourri', meaning a medley of dance tunes or dance steps.

About the dance: Papouri is a celebratory circle dance for both men and women, popular in all regions of Armenian and the Armenian Diaspora. Papouri is a happy dance with many variations, with characteristic stamping, hopping and clapping movements, particularly danced by young people at times of celebration. This is a 5-measure dance sequence, while the melody alternates between 8-measure and 6-measure phrases. There are 8-measure and 6-measure versions of Papouri, but it is not necessary for the musical phrase and the dance phrase to fit together exactly (see the dance notes for Sheighana for more information on this tendency).

Learned from: Shakeh Major Tchilingirian at the Findhorn Sacred Dance Festival in 2018. I have learned other versions of Papouri from Rudik Haroyan, Naira Kilichyan, and Tom Bozigian.

Music: Track 4 on the CD *Gorani: Traditional Dances from the Armenian Homeland*, presented by Shakeh Tchilingirian and Laura Shannon.

Meter: 4/4, changing to 6/8 without changing the tempo of the dance. Dance is described in 2/4.

Formation: Open circle. The leader (on the R) can wave a white handkerchief. Papouri is normally danced in a shoulder hold, but can also be danced in a 'W' hold or 'V' hold.

Style: Quite energetic, with light steps, but not too bouncy, still connected to the earth.

Introduction: 4 measures of dhol (drum). Begin with the zourna.

Variations: Variations for Papouri are described in the booklet of dance descriptions accompanying the CD *Gorani: Traditional Dances from the Armenian Homeland*.

	meas.	cts.	Papouri
(hop) \overline{L} \cup			<i>Facing centre, moving R:</i> <i>(on the upbeat, hop or lilt on L foot to prepare to step R)</i>
s \overline{R} \rightarrow	1	1	Step on R foot to the R
cl \overline{L}		2	Step on L foot beside R
s \overline{R} \cup	2	1	Step on R foot to the R
lb \overline{L}		2	Lift L foot behind
thf \overline{L}	3	1	Touch L heel forward
lb \overline{R} \overline{L}		2	Leap on L foot in place, lift R foot behind
thf \overline{R}	4	1	Swing R foot around to the R and touch R heel forward
ths \overline{R}		2	Touch R heel to the R side
cl \overline{R}	5	1	Close R foot to L, bend knees
bend \overline{L}		2	Straighten knees, lift and lower both heels
lift & \overline{R}			<i>(on the upbeat, hop or lilt on L foot to prepare to step R)</i>
lower \overline{L}			
heels			

Dance description © Laura Shannon 2018,
based on information from Shakeh Major Tchilingirian and from the 2001 booklet of dance
descriptions which accompanies our CD Gorani: Traditional Dances from the Armenian Homeland