**Debka Rafiach (**דבקה רפיח**)**

(Israel)

In the era of the British Mandate of Palestine (1920-1948), both Arabs and Jews fought British rule. Participants in the Arab Revolt and the Jewish Irgun were incarcerated, including in the Rafiach Jail in Gaza. Those prisoners developed this dance – in the Arabic *dabke* style with Hebrew lyrics – as a protest. Some sources attribute this dance to Moshe Presser, though I believe it would be misleading to give him sole credit.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Arranged by: | Pioneers (see above) | Year: | 1946 |
| Pronunciation: | DEHB-kuh ra-fee-AH | Translation: | Rafiach Dance |
|  | *H as in J.S. Bach* | Composer: | Arabic |
| Meter: | 4/4 | Lyricist: | Emmanuel Zamir |
|  |  | Singer: | Ofra Haza |
| Formation: | Short open lines, moving in a circle, hands joined | | |
| Steps & Styling: | Bouncy steps, lots of strength, with a defiant attitude | | |

Meas 4/4 meter Pattern

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 8 meas |  | INTRODUCTION. *No action. Dance begins with the singing. There is a tendency to want to begin too early after only 4 meas. – resist the urge.* |
|  | I. | FIGURE 1: HEELS |
|  |  | *Short lines, hands held in lower V position, moving CCW in a circle, facing center* |
| 1 |  | R heel touches four times, to the front (1), to the R (2), front (3), R (4). |
| 2 |  | Walk two debka steps on the circle line, R (1), L (2), facing CCW line. Close R next to L (3) turning to face center and keeping weight on L, and bounce (4). |
|  |  | *A debka step lands with the heel on (1) and the rest of the foot rolls down on (&).* |
| 3-4 |  | Repeat meas. 1-2. |
| 5 |  | R heel to the front (1), R touch and step to the R (2). Walk on the CCW line with L (3), and close R next to L (4) turning to face center and keeping weight on L. |
| 6-10 |  | Repeat meas. 5. |
|  | II. | FIGURE 2: TO THE LIGHT |
| 1 |  | Bounce 4 times on both feet (1, 2, 3, 4). |
| 2 |  | Moving into the center, step R forward (1), step L slightly fwd but not in front of the R (&), strong step fwd on R (2). Step back on L (3), step back on R with weight, closing it next to L (4). |
| 3 |  | Moving along CCW line, step L (1), step R (2) to face center, close L next to R (3), bounce (4). |
|  | III. | FIGURE 3: SHOULDERS |
|  |  | *Hands on shoulders, moving quickly on CCW line, facing center. Looking proudly toward the right.* |
| 1 |  | R steps strongly to R side (1), L crosses behind R (&). Repeat 3 more times (2&, 3&, 4&). |
| 2 |  | Snap head to look L, and repeat meas. 1 ftwk. |
| 3 |  | Snap head to look R, and repeat meas. 1 ftwk. |
| 4 |  | Snap head to look L, and repeat meas. 1 ftwk. |
|  | IV. | FIGURE 4: STOMP |
|  |  | *Rejoin hands in lower V position. Fig. IV is an emphatic version of Fig. I, meas. 5-10.* |
| 1 |  | Strong stomp of R forward, twisting entire body to the L, and looking down at floor while slightly bending knees (1). Return to upright posture, turning to face CCW line, and debka step R (2), step L (3), close R next to L without weight and face center (4). |
| 2-6 |  | Repeat meas. 1. |
|  | V. | FIGURE 4: DOWN AND UP |
| 1 |  | Moving into the center and leading with R shoulder, drop the R shoulder and head down, step R fwd (1), step L slightly fwd but staying behind R (&), step R fwd (2). Continuing into the center, leading with the L shoulder, stand upright, tall and proud, and step L fwd (2), step R slightly fwd but staying behind L (&), step L fwd (4). |
| 2 |  | Repeat meas. 1. |
| 3 |  | Moving backwards, step R (1), L (2), R (3), close L next to R with weight (4). |
|  |  |  |
|  |  | Sequence. I, II, III, IV, V. Repeat. |

Presented by Aaron Alpert

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| לי יומי ולי לילי  ובקרי לי  תמולי לי וערבי לי  רד היום לפאת הים  והלילה לילה כבר פרש  ואדרת אפל לי  עד אור עד אור  עד אור תאור לי שמש  שמש לי תאור | Li yomi ve’li leili  U’vokri li  Tmoli li ve'arvi li  Rad hayom lif'at hayam  Vehalaila laila kvar paras  Va'aderet ofel li  Adei or, adei or  Adei or tei'or li shemesh  Shemesh li tei'or | My day is mine, and my night  And my morning is mine  My yesterday and my evening are mine  The day goes down to the edge of the sea  And the night has already spread out  And I have a cloak of darkness  To the light, to the light  To the light, the sun will shine for me  The sun will shine for me |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |