

DADIKI KOCHARI

ARMENIA

Translation: 'Dadik's Kochari'. The specification of the name of Dadik is added because there are many variations of Kochari. This dance has elements from Moush, Alashkert and Sasoun, names of regions in former West Armenia, nowadays east Turkey. Kochari comes from the verb 'kochel = to move'. It is connected with the migration of herds. Kochari is traditionally performed by shepherds. The dance sometimes imitates the goat's movements ('koiagerb = like a goat'). It is believed that this dance is of totemic origin, dating from the era that men worshipped animals. There are many Kocharis in different regions of (former) Armenia. Kochari is sometimes considered as Armenia's national dance and the kochari step is a popular step in these dances and therefore named after the dance. The step can have minor variations.

Music: 2/4 meter, song by Ararat Amadyan *Vay lele*.

Formation: mixed lines, arms down, join hands, face ctr

Introduction: no

Source: Dadik Martirosyan

Description: © Tineke van Geel

kochari step: Start position: L ft diag fwd to L, ft turned out, R ft turned out, weight on both ft. Bend both knees (cnt 1), stretch both knees (cnt &) bend both knees (cnt 2), stretch both knees (cnt &).

meas cnt figure 1 'basic figure'

1 kochari step

2 shift wt to L ft and do a double knee bounce on L (down on cnt 1, up on cnt &, down on cnt 2, up on cnt &). As you bounce the R ft lifts off the floor on cnt 2&

3 1 step sdw on R
2 cross L over R

4 1 step sdw on R
2 lift L bkwd

figure 2 'variation'

1 kochari step

2 1& shift wt to L ft and do a knee bounce on L (down on cnt 1, up on cnt &),
2 leap fwd on L (L knee bent), torso leaning fwd

3-4 repeat meas 3-4 of figure 1, but move slightly bkwd

figure 3 'stamp variation'

1 kochari step

2 1& shift wt to L ft and do a double knee bounce on L (down on cnt 1, up on cnt &,
2 down on cnt 2, up on cnt &). As you bounce the R leg is raised fwd (cnt 2&)

3 1 stamp R beside L (without weight), torso is leaning fwd
& stamp R beside L (with weight)
2 stamp L beside R (with weight), lift R leg bkwd

4 1 stamp on R behind L, bring L ft on ball of ft without weight (L knee strongly
bend), torso straightens
2 no action

5-8 repeat 'basic figure'

9-16 repeat meas 1-8

Lyrics Dadiki kochari

2x

I picked a lot of roses
I have collected a lot of roses
When I see that my darling is coming
I receive her with songs and flowers

chorus

Vay lele my darling
My dear *lele* my darling
Ah my beautiful *maral* (literally 'deer', here: female/beautiful girl)
The medicine of my heart

2x

You have apricot colored hair
Your hair will be gently caressed by the wind
My darling from mountains and ravines
Will stay with me at home

chorus

2x

Moon goes very high in the sky
Give light and go far away
I have a darling far away
Say hello to her and go far away

chorus