

Amiranis Perkhuli

(Amiran's Round Dance)

(Republic of Georgia)

About: The Perkhuli song that is used for this dance is one of the most archaic forms of Georgian music. The story varies in the telling, but, essentially, it tells of Amiran, mortal son of Dali (goddess of the hunt), who was a hero and who brought fire to the people (like in the Prometheus legend). He was punished for this by being chained to a rock or mountain.

Source: Zadashe, a vocal and dance group from Caucasus Georgia, on their 2015 US tour.

Recording: Zedashe "Our Earth and Water", band 13; DCFF 2016 CD

Meter: 4/4

Formation: Circle with hands held in "V" position.

Meas. Pattern

- 1 Travelling in LOD step R fwd (ct 1); step L fwd (ct 2); step R fwd (ct 3); sweep L, extending it in an arc fwd then to the left just above floor, meanwhile turning to RLOD (ct 4). (Note: this sweep action is used often and will be described simply as "sweep L" or "sweep R")
- 2 Travelling RLOD step L fwd (ct 1); step R fwd (ct 2); step L fwd (ct 3); sweep R while turning to face center (ct 4).
- 3 Step R (ct 1); touch floor with tip of L foot crossed behind L (ct 2); step L (ct 3); touch floor with tip of R foot crossed behind L (ct 4).
- 4 Step R while extending L forward low (ct 1); step L while extending R forward low (ct 2); drop fwd on R (ct 3); step back on L (ct 4).
- 5 Turning to face R diag fwd, step R (ct 1); sweep L (ct 2); step L (ct 3); sweep R (ct 4).
- 6 Turning to face L diag fwd, step R (ct 1); touch L heel fwd to floor, (ct. 2); touch L toe to floor (ct 3), sweep R (ct 4).
- 7-8 Repeat meas 5-6 with opp footwork and direction.

Arms: Arms remain joined in "V" position except for meas 4 which is done as follows: At end of ct 2 start bringing hands up in a small circle from back to front as preparation for ct 3 (this is a small subtle movement); on ct 3 swing hands down somewhat sharply, releasing them; rejoin hands on ct 4.

Dance repeats 6 and a half times. After 6 full repetitions, complete meas 1-4, but do not rejoin hands.

Description by Mary Garvin