

MFS 321

# armenia

*Monitor Presents Armenian Folk Dances*

**monitor**  
MUSIC OF THE WORLD



DESIGN: DAVID CHACHAN, PHOTO: MIKA AMSTROD

ARMENIAN FOLK DANCES

MONITOR PRESENTS

CENTER FOR FOLKLIFE PROGRAMS  
AND CULTURAL STUDIES  
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

monitor

MFS 321

MONITOR PRESENTS

# ARMENIAN FOLK DANCES

Armenian Song and Dance Ensemble

Armenian Radio Orchestra of Folk Instruments

## INTRODUCTION

ARMENIAN dances are customarily divided into two categories: solo dances (usually for women), and circle or line dances for men or women or both. An interesting aspect of the dances for mixed groups is that male and female never touch save by a peculiar hand hold which requires joining with little fingers interlocked.

American audiences were treated to some beautiful examples of the Armenian dance when members of the Armenian Song and Dance Ensemble participated in S. Hurok's Russian Music and Dance Festival. The graceful movements of the mixed dancers and the haunting accompaniment of traditional folk instruments were a charming contrast to the pyrotechnics of the Great Russian groups.

The cultural heritage of the Armenian people has been retained despite the dispersion of Armenians all over the world as a result of oppression and persecution throughout their long history. In present day Armenia, wedged between Azerbaijan, Turkey and Iran, music and literature flourish and the wearing of native costumes and the playing of native instruments still continues. This recording, together with Monitor's earlier release, *Armenian Folk Songs* (MF 303), offers evidence of the encouragement of that culture and of the high musical level of the performing groups.

## SIDE ONE

### 1. SEVAN FISHERMEN

*Sevana Zgnorsnerou Bar* (V. Kotoyan)  
Armenian Song and Dance Ensemble  
Conducted by A. Alexandrian  
Artistic Director: Tatul Altunian

A fisherman's dance that comes from the Lake Sevan region of Armenia. Of interest in this music is the different rhythmic phrases used against a 5/4 meter.

### 2. CARAVAN (A. Arutunian)

Solo Clarinet: Harutun Anurian  
Armenian State Concert Orchestra  
Conducted by Constantine Orbelian

Here, in this illusion of a caravan off in the desert, a beautiful melody is played on the clarinet. Note also a definite western influence in the musical accompaniment. The 8/8 meter has the strong accents on the 1st, 4th, and 7th beats.

### 3. HUMOROUS DANCE

*Gadagayin Bar* (A. Akopian)  
Armenian Song and Dance Ensemble  
Conducted by Tatul Altunian

A gay, jovial dance performed by a group of men dressed in traditional costume. The music is in a lively 6/8 tempo.

### 4. DANCE OF NARINE

*Narine Bar* (A. Alexandrian)  
Armenian Radio Orchestra of Folk Instruments  
Conducted by S. Dzherbashian  
Artistic Director: A. Merangulian

A descriptive dance set in various moods which is highlighted by a beautiful blending of folk instruments in the musical accompaniment.

### 5. FAST DANCE FROM "DANCE SUITE"

*Arak Bar* (K. Avetisian)  
Armenian Radio Orchestra of Folk Instruments  
Conducted by S. Dzherbashian  
Artistic Director: A. Merangulian

This classical dance is performed mostly by men. Featured in the musical background is the tara, a string instrument which is plucked and similar in sound to the banjo.

### 6. DANCE FROM "DANCE SUITE"

Armenian Radio Orchestra of Folk Instruments  
Conducted by S. Dzherbashian  
Artistic Director: A. Merangulian

Featured instruments here are the duduk (a primitive wind instrument) and the kanoun (a zither-like instrument plucked with the fingers).

### 7. HOLIDAY DANCE

*Donagan Bar* (S. Dzherbashian)  
Armenian Radio Orchestra of Folk Instruments  
Conducted by S. Dzherbashian  
Artistic Director: A. Merangulian

The feeling of a joyous holiday mood is felt in this dance which is performed at festive occasions. The steps of the dance closely coincide with the strong accented rhythms of the music.

## SIDE TWO

### 1. JAIRANIK

(Armenian Folk Dance)  
Armenian Song and Dance Ensemble  
Conducted by Tatul Altunian

A solo dance for a girl and a group of boys.

### 2. DANCE OF AKHOURIAN

*Akhourian Bar* (Armenian Folk Melody)  
Levon Madoyan, Hachik Khachatrian, Duduks  
Vladimir Egorian, Dool

The simplest and yet probably the oldest example of

Armenian music and dance in this album. Of interest: one duduk playing the sustained notes, while the other duduk improvises. Sustaining of notes is a technique of playing and inhaling air at the same time.

### 3. YOU ARE LIKE A GENTLE DOE

*Ey Maral Aghtchig* (N. Galanterian)  
Solo Tara: S. Seiranian  
Armenian Radio Orchestra of Folk Instruments  
Conducted by Aram Merangulian

This nostalgic love song is played on the tara.

### 4. DANCE OF KENARIG

*Kenarigi Bar* (V. Balian)  
Armenian Radio Orchestra of Folk Instruments  
Conducted by S. Dzherbashian  
Artistic Director: A. Merangulian

A solo dance by a young maiden. She holds a kerchief in front of her face and flirtatiously dances within a circle of people.

### 5. EMERALD

*Zumrukt* (E. Saruni)  
Armenian Song and Dance Ensemble  
Conducted by Tatul Altunian  
Solo Kemanche: E. Arustanian  
Solo Duduk: D. Gasparian

A dance performed by a mixed group.

### 6. DERBENT

(Armenian Folk Dance)  
Levon Madoyan, Hachik Khachatrian, Duduks  
Vladimir Egorian, Dool

Two duduks and a dool set the mood for a sombre solo dance by a girl.

### 7. DO NOT ASK ME

*Intz Mi Khentrir* (A. Mailian)  
Solo Tara: S. Seiranian  
Armenian Radio Orchestra of Folk Instruments  
Conducted by A. Merangulian

A melancholy song. Solo instrument: the tara.

Commentary by Stephen Bogoshian

For complete catalogue write:

MONITOR RECORDS  
156 Fifth Avenue  
New York, N.Y. 10010

For the care of your records check needle periodically; store away from heat; wipe with a damp cloth before playing. For playback on wide-range equipment use RIAA curve.

Cover Design: David Chasman  
Cover photo of Armenian Song and Dance Ensemble by Myra Armstrong.

Printed in U. S. A.

## ARMENIAN MUSIC ON MONITOR RECORDS



MFS 303 ARMENIAN FOLK SONGS - featuring the Armenian State Chorus and the Song and Dance Ensemble.



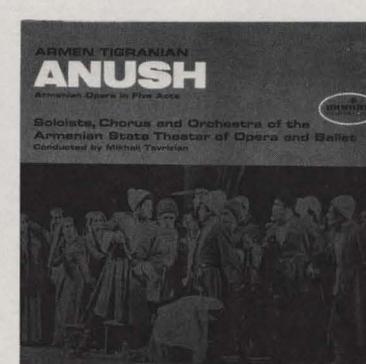
MFS 352 ARMENIAN FESTIVAL - The Armenian Song and Dance Ensemble conducted by Tatul Altunian.



MFS 452 ARMENIA, ARMENIA - Armenian Songs and Dances with Hachig Kazarian and His Ensemble. (Available also on 8 Track and Cassette).



MFS 727 ARMENIAN SONGS and DANCES - The Libano - Armenian Folk Dance Ensemble at the Baalbek International Festival.



MC 2081/2/3 TIGRANIAN: ANUSH - (Complete Armenian Opera on 3 Longplaying Records)