

VE'DAVID

(Israel)

Ve'David (VEH dah-VEED) was choreographed by Rivka Sturman and introduced by Al Pill at a Federation Institute in June, 1959. It was also taught by Vyts Beliajus at the 1959 University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp. The words come from the Bible (I Samuel, 18:7), and were set to music by Mattitehu Shelem. The dance is progressive, and was made by re-arranging the steps of the English "Circassian Circle."

RECORDS: Elektra EKL186 Side B/6; Folkraft 1432 (78), 1477 (45), LP-2 and LP-12; Folk Dancer MH-1155; Festival LP 201, F-3618 (45); Tikva LP-106, LP-138. 4/4 meter

SCORE: Songs and Dances No. 2 (Zemer V'mechol), edited by Sh. Kaplan and T. Hodes, Nissimov Music Library No. 99, Education and Culture Centre of the General Federation of Labour-Histadrut, Tel Aviv, Israel, 1957.

FORMATION: Cpls in a circle, facing LOD, W to M R, inside hands joined and down, free hands at side.

STEPS and STYLING: Basic Step (1 per ct): A cross between a run and a walk, done in a light, springy manner on the ball of the foot.

Buzz Step: With R in front of L, step on full R, bending R knee (ct 1); step on ball of L ft a little to L of R heel (ct &); repeat for cts 2-4.

Ftwk same for M and W. All meas begin with R ft.

MUSIC 4/4

PATTERN

Measures

INTRODUCTION Varies with record.

I. CIRCLE, IN AND OUT

- A 1 4 Basic Steps in LOD.
- 2 Move bkwd 4 Basic Steps, turning as a cpl to face ctr. Join hands in a single circle.
- 3 4 Basic Steps twd ctr, raising joined hands to shldr level.
- 4 4 Basic Steps bkwd out of circle, lowering joined hands.

II. IN AND OUT, PROGRESS

- B 1 Release hands. W move 4 Basic Steps twd ctr. M stand in place and clap hands on each ct of music.

- 2 W move 4 Basic Steps bkwd to place. M continue to clap.
- 3 M move 4 Basic Steps twd ctr. W stand in place. All clap on each ct of music.
- 4 M turn 1/2 CW and move 4 Basic Steps fwd diag L out of circle to new ptr (the W who is one pos LOD from orig ptr). All may continue to clap.
- 5-6 With R hips adjacent, put R arm around new ptrs waist, L arm raised high to the side; turn CW with 8 Buzz Steps, ending facing LOD, W to M R, inside hands joined.

Repeat dance from beginning.

NOTES and VARIATIONS: Since this is an old and popular Israeli dance, it has changed through the years in Israel. There are several acceptable variations which do not disrupt the rest of the dancers. In Fig II, meas 1-2, the Hebrew instructions have the W clap. Many W, however, raise their arms going in and lower them backing out, instead. Fig II, meas 5-6, the L arms are free; they don't have to be raised. In the same part, many people turn with only 4 Buzz Steps (in fact, that was the original way, although now almost everybody, including Rivka Sturman and the modern Hebrew instructions, use 8 steps); children sometimes use walking steps instead of buzz. The important thing is to keep the dance active and free.

LYRICS:

Ve david yafeh einayim
 Hu roeh bashoshanim
 Hikka shaul b'allafav
 Ve david b'rive-votav
 Ben yishai chai vekayam

TRANSLATION:

And David has beautiful eyes
 He liveth among the roses
 Saul killed them in the thousands
 And David in the ten thousands.
 The son of Jesse is alive, exists.

Another translation:

And David was fair to behold
 A tender of flocks among the lilies.
 Saul smote his thousands
 And David his tens of thousands,
 His name endures forever.

I Samuel 18:7

Description revised May 1983.