

LACH YERUSHALAYIM

Israeli

PRONUNCIATION: LAHK yeh-ROO-shah-lah-yeem

TRANSLATION: For you, Jerusalem

SOURCE: Dick Oakes learned this dance from Dani Dassa, one of the leading Israeli dance choreographers in the United States. Dani taught the dance at the 1970 San Diego State College Folk Dance Conference and at the 1980 Folk Dance Symposium.

BACKGROUND: Lach Yerushalayim was choreographed as a salute to Jerusalem, Israel, the oldest capital city in the world. Jerusalem is situated approximately 32 miles from the Mediterranean Sea on the end of a flat ridge. On one of the world's ancient trade routes, every wanderer, every conqueror, every traveller who has trod the central route of old Palestine from north to south must have passed through the table-land of Jerusalem. The city has been a world pilgrimage spot for many of the world's religions, and access to the city's holy places has been promised by the government of Israel since the Old City section was annexed after the War of 1967. One of the actions in the dance, hands up with palms forward, represents praying at the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem – the sole remaining wall of Solomon's Second Temple. Since the Diaspora (the Great Dispersion of Jews throughout the world), Jews have yearned to return their homeland and embrace the Wailing Wall. The lyrics are by Amos Etinger, the music is by A. Rubenstein.

MUSIC: Israeli Dances (LP) DAN-005

FORMATION: Open cir of mixed M and W with hands joined and held down in "V" pos.

METER/RHYTHM: 2/4

STEPS/STYLE: YEMENITE STEP R: Step R swd (ct 1); step up onto ball of L in back of R (ct &); step R onto full ft down and across in front of L (ct 2).

YEMENITE STEP L: Step L swd (ct 1); step up onto ball of R in back of L (ct &); step L onto full ft down and across in front of R (ct 2).

The two steps above are often simply referred to as "Yemenite R" and "Yemenite L."

MEAS

MOVEMENT DESCRIPTION

1-2

INTRODUCTION - No action.

I. TRAVELLING IN LOD

- 1 Facing and moving to R in LOD, step L (ct 1); hop L (ct &); step R (ct 2); hop R (ct &).
- 2 Close L to R bending both knees (ct 1); jump up from both (ct &); land on L (ct uh); step R leaning over from hips (ct 2); step L fwd with body still bent fwd (ct &).
- 3 Straightening up, step R (ct 1); hop R (ct &); step L (ct 2); hop L (ct &).
- 4 Yemenite R (cts 1&2); hop R (ct &).
- 5-8 Repeat action of meas 1-4 ending facing ctr.

II. WAILING WALL

- 1 Facing ctr and releasing handhold, leap L swd (ct 1); step R across L, leaning fwd with R shldr and R hand extended across body (ct &); step L back in place, straightening to face ctr (ct 2); hop L (ct &).
- 2 Step RLR, making one full CW turn to the R (cts 1&2).
- 3-4 Repeat action of meas 1-2.
- 5 Facing ctr with hands fwd, just above shldr level, with palms fwd and elbows bent, step L swd (ct 1); rock R swd (ct 2); rock L swd (ct &).
- 6 Rock R swd, bending knees and leaning body fwd as hands come down near hips with elbows still bent (ct 1); close L to R with body still leaning fwd with knees bent and hands coming up again but with palms facing each other (ct 2).
- 7 Still leaning fwd with knees bent, clap hands (ct 1); clap hands (ct 2); clap hands straightening knees slightly (ct &).
- 8 Step R swd, bringing hands out and downward (ct 1); close L to R without wt (ct 2).
- 9-15 Repeat action of meas 1-7.
- 16 Straightening body, turning to face to R in LOD, and taking a low "V" pos handhold, step R fwd in LOD (ct 1); close L to R without wt (ct 2).

Repeat entire dance from beg.

Before dance begins for the third time, jump on balls of both ft in place four times for one meas of musical interlude (cts 1&2&).

Repeat entire dance from beg, except that Fig II, meas 16, is danced as was meas 8 with dancers remaining facing ctr. This is followed by four more meas of music with the dancers continuing to dance the action of meas 15-16 three more times (meas 17-19), followed by a 20th meas in which the dancers, straightening up, clap hands (ct 1); snap fingers throwing hands high and outstretched (ct &); pause (ct 2).

LACH YERUSHALAYIM

Israel

Lach Y'rushalayim, bein chomot ha-ir	For you, Jerusalem, surrounded by your walls.
Lach Y'rushalayim, or chadash ya-ir	For you, Jerusalem, a new light will shine.
B'libaynu, b'libaynu, rak shir echad kayam	In our hearts, only one song exists.
Lach Y'rushalayim bayn midbar vayam	For you, Jerusalem, between the desert and the sea.
