

El Haderech

(Israel)

This dance has an unusual formation for a couple dance in any country – couples standing side by side, facing the music.

Choreographer: Moti Alfassy (1982)

Translation: On the Way or On the Road

Pronunciation: El hah-DEHR-ekh

CD: *Israeli Dances Stockton 2006*. Band 4. 4/4 meter

Formation: Couples standing side by side, facing the music. Hands joined in V-pos. W on M's R side. Opposite footwork for Part I; same footwork for Part II.

Cts

Pattern

I. FORWARD AND BACK, WALK AWAY, TURN BACK

1-4 Beg with the inside ft, walk three steps fwd and a small kick fwd with the free ft.

5-8 Beg with outside ft, back up three steps, and a small kick with the free ft.

9-12 Release hands. Grapevine moving away from ptr, beg by crossing the inside ft in front. The last step of the grapevine is a slightly stronger lean onto the outside ft in preparation for the next movement.

13-16 Four steps to make a full turn moving back to ptr to the original position to repeat from the beg. The last step is the outside ft crossing front as the inside hands are rejoined.

17-28 Repeat cts 1-12.

29-32 M repeats cts 13-16 above except he turns 1/4 more to the R to face ptr.

W repeats cts 13-16 above except she turns 1/4 more to the L to face ptr and she takes *only three steps* in the turn (L-R-L) in order to free her R ft for Part II.

Join hands across, at waist level (M's L and W's R; M's R and W's L).

NOTE: M and W now use the same ftwk!

II. FACING EACH OTHER, SWITCH PLACES, WALK AWAY, TURN BACK

1-2 Switch places by rotating as a cpl 1/2 CW with two steps (R-L).

3-4 Sway R dramatically to the R, to the extent the joins hands will allow. Sway to L and release the handhold.

5-8 Walk four steps (R-L-R-L)—M move “down” the hall (away from the music), W walk “up” the hall (twd the music). M follow M in a line, W follow W in a line.

9-10 One more step fwd onto R ft; step back onto L ft and look back twd ptr.

11-12 Step on R to R (twd ptr); step on L next to L.

13-16 Full turn individually CW with four steps (R-L-R-L) to return to facing ptr. Last step is a cross in front as you join hands across as at the beg of this figure.

17-31 Repeat cts 1-15. Note that in the repeat of cts 5-8, M will now walk twd the music and W will walk “down” the hall (away from the music).

El Haderech—continued

- 32 M: finish the 4-step turn (L) but turn only 3/4 to end facing the front of the hall, with the R ft free to start the dance from the beg.
W: Hold on Count 32 and do not take the fourth step of the turn (see 13-16). There is also an extra 1/4 turn so W ends facing the music next to M. This will leave her *inside* (L) ft free to begin the dance.

Song Words

El Haderech

Veshuv netse'a el haderech
 Yad beyad la derech
 Besharsheret zahav.
 Veshuv netse'a el haderech
 Am echad la derech
 Veshirenu al gav.

Chorus

Ve'ad leshe'arei rakia
 Bevadai nagia
 Od me'at
 Im lo achshav.
 Ve'ad leshe'arei rakia
 Bevadai nagia
 Ki darkenu lo lashav.

Vegam im aruka haderech
 Veraba haderech
 Hen kochenu od rav.
 Vegam im aruka haderech
 Veraba haderech
 Na'avor ba yachdav.

Chorus**On the Way**

Again we go out on the road
 Hand in hand, to the road
 In a golden chain.
 Again we go out on the road
 One people, to the road
 With our song on our back.

Chorus

And to the gates of heaven
 Surely we'll arrive
 Very soon
 If not now.
 And to the gates of heaven
 Surely we'll arrive
 For our path is not in vain.

And even if the road is long
 And the road is great
 Our strength is even greater.
 And even if the road is long
 And the road is great
 We'll travel it together.

Chorus

Presented by Loui Tucker