

TAMASHEQ SHUFFLE

Chor. Paul Boizot, 2015. Music; Tarhamanine Assinegh by Tamikrest (a Tuareg band from Mali), from album Toumastin, available from Amazon mp3* or iTunes. The language is Tamasheq, and one of the Tuareg's own names for themselves is Kel Tamasheq, "speakers of Tamasheq." Recording shortened by Paul as the original is a bit long for a lively dance!

Rhythm 4/4. Dance steps are three lots of slow-quick-quick followed by slow-slow. Slow = 2 beats and quick = 1 beat. Formation; circle or open circle. Steps need to be kept reasonably small otherwise the dance becomes too fast; the dance can be danced at different energy levels, but higher energy comes more from lifting the feet more off the ground. The sways (particularly the second set) can be danced with minimal movement of the feet off the ground. Arms V.

Start – it can be tricky at first to pick an early start point to ensure that the dance is in sync with the vocals, when they come in at around 1 minute. Before the vocals there are (approximately) 4 bars of bass, then 4 bars more with vocal ululation; then the guitar comes in and there are 32 bars more (= 4 times through the dance) before the main vocal line. Start either after the first 3 notes of the guitar, on the strong beat; or 8 bars after that. It's really a question of listening to the music and becoming familiar with it.

↷→ sR, Lxb q, sR q, ↷← sway L, ↷→ sway R q, ↷← sway L q;

↷↑ R, L q (this step can curve a little so L foot lands almost ahead of R), ↷↓ replace R q; L, point R diag. forward to right;

↷→ sR, in place L q, in place R q, ↷← sway L, ↷→ sway R q, ↷← sway L q;

↷← Rxf, sL q, Lxb q, sL, heel R diag. forward to right.

Translation of lyrics;

To you my love, I say:
When I remember you I'm happy
To you my love, I say:
It reminds me of days gone by
To you my love, I say:
When my heart had no other worries
To you my love, I say:
My dream is you
To you my love, I say:
My essence is you
To you my love, I say:
My heart is yours
To you my love, I say:
You are the mistress of my thoughts

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