

Heyamo

(Kurdish, E. Turkey)

Laz work song from the Eastern Black Sea region of Turkey. Heyamo was collected and arranged by Birol Topaloglu, translated by Brenna MacCrimmon. Birol is a Turkish Laz musician. The Laz people are a minority group who live in the mountainous regions of eastern Turkey around the Black Sea. Their language is related to Mingrelian Georgian. It is very unusual to find harmonized songs in Turkey and the harmony in this tune is very much a part of the Georgian influence in their culture.

As the borders were drawn up between Turkey and the Soviet Union, the planners used natural boundaries like rivers and mountains to establish their lines. Some of these went straight through communities. Because of the tensions between the two countries it became impossible to carry on daily life on both sides of a river. To visit relatives on the Turkish side, for example, Soviet-siders would first have to travel to Moscow, then Istanbul and Ankara, and finally on an uncomfortable overland journey, a total of thousands of miles—just to reach a destination that was in effect a stone's throw away—or risk being shot at by border guards. The villagers used songs to communicate what was happening on their side of the border, letting the other side know who was getting married, how the harvest was going, and so on. The songs were sent freely from one side of the valley to the other because their language was unknown to most soldiers posted at the watch points.

Pronunciation: HAY AH-moh

Music: *Ahmet Lüleci Turkish Dances*, Band 3

4/4 Meter

Formation: Arms bent from the elbows, forearms touching neighbor's forearms, hands slightly lower than the elbows. (Known as "Black Sea Position")

Cts

Pattern

INTRODUCTION Begin at the start of any 12 meas phrase.

FIGURE 1

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1 | Facing center, step on R to R. |
| 2 | Step on L to R, crossing R. |
| 3 | Step on R to R. |
| 4 | Quick step on L to R, crossing R. |
| & | Quick step on R to R. |
| 5 | Step on L to R, crossing R. |
| 6 | Quick step on L to R, crossing R. |
| & | Step on L to R, crossing R. |
| 7 | Step on R to R. |
| 8 | Touch L toe forward. |
| & | Slightly L fwd. |
| 9 | Small step on L to L, slightly lifting R ft fwd. |
| 10 | Small step on R to R, slightly lifting L ft fwd. |
| 11 | Small step on L to L, slightly lifting R ft fwd. |
| 12 | Touch R toe fwd. |
| & | Slightly lift R ft fwd. |

Described and presented by Ahmet Lüleci ©2003

Heyamo—continued

Song Words

He He Heyamo, yamo heyamo, heyamoli heyamo
 He He Heyamo Dadis ugun noderi, dadis ugun noderi
 He He Heyamo Dopxaskat do vigzalat, dopxaskat do vigzalat
 He He Heyamo Mani mani dalepe, mani mani dalepe
 He He Heyamo So bzirat ham ndgalepe, so bzirat ham ndgalepe

He He heyamo Zeni ckunis noderi, zeni ckunis noderi

Tutaste iven seri, tutaste iven seri
 Vibirt xacker xackeri, vibirt xacker xackeri
 Hem seri hem ndgaleri, hem seri em ndgaleri

Andga kai taroni, andga kai taroni
 Dadi soren termoni, dadi soren termoni
 Ora mokilu ordo, ora mokiluordo
 Opskomat komogi do, opskomat komogi do

He he heyamo,
 Your aunt is having a working party
 Let's dig and go
 Quickly sisters quickly
 When do we find such fine days?

The work party is on our flat lands

The moonlight fills the night
 We sing as we dig
 All day and all night

Today the weather is very fine
 Where is Aunt Termoni?
 The time passes so quickly
 Let's go and eat.