

QARSAK

Qarsak (literally, “handclap”) is a widespread and popular song cycle and folk dance of Uzbek people. At the same time, dancing cycle of *qarsak* consists of two parts, i.e. “*beshqarsak*” (exists in mountain districts) and “*maydaqarsak*” (exists in flat lands). “*Maydaqarsak*” in its turn, contains “*Yakka Qarsak*”, “*Qosh Qarsak*” and “*Tez Qarsak*” (“Single handclap”, “Double handclap”, “Quick handclap” respectively) or “*Uzmaqarsak*” (“continuous handclap”) each *qarsak* combines a poem, song and method, which are associated with dancing movements. In many places the performers sit or stand next to each other forming a circle or a semi-cycle, paddle harmoniously with the style of the dancer.

In “*maydaqarsak*” the dance is perceived as a single whole action with a dance taking

place in the circle. In each section there will be dozens of people’s games, but lead with identical *qarsak* style. After switching to the 2nd part, *qarsak* rhythm changes and the dance movements are renewed.

“*Beshqarsak*” is a massive dance, which is performed forming a circle standing side to side clapping in a certain tempo, style (rhythm of the handclaps are on the form of 3+1+1) and with some exclamations.

In large circles the number of participants can be 20 or more. Together with clapping in a certain tempo, they also wave to the sides, stand up and sit down, dance bending and at that moment move to the right and left.





In the game there happen recitative couplets. The dancers' movements will be tense and in the warlike character. Mainly he moves his arms, waist, shoulders and chest, makes innumerable facial expressions, he dances bending, standing straight and kneeling alternatively.

When the melody, song and dance tempo reach their culmination, the others approach the dancer (or the dancers) and exclaim as "yoh, ho, ho, ho, ho", "Aha, ha, aha, ha, aha, ha", without any music.

Qarsak game is preserved in Jizzakh, Bukhara, Kashkadarya and Surkhandarya regions. "Beshqarsak" game lasted for 2–3 hours in the near past. Nowadays it takes place in the repertory of such folklore-ethnographic and amateur ensembles as "Gashtak" (Jizzakh region), "Chavki", "Beshqarsak" (Samarkand region) and others.

