WATER IS LIFE

Chor. Paul Boizot, 2011. Music; Matadjem Yinmixan by Tinariwen (Mali), from album Aman Iman: Water Is Life, available from Amazon mp3* or ITunes. Recording shortened by Paul as the original is a bit long (5.45) for a lively dance!

There is a video of me demonstrating this dance at www.paulboizot.co.uk/videos.htm, also on my youtube channel www.youtube.com/paulboizot. The video was shot in a small space, so the dance was a bit less vigorous than it can be in a proper dance space; and you may be able to move in further towards the centre on part 2.

Rhythm 4/4. Formation; circle. Start with the vocals (on the third syllable, as the vocals start before the beginning of the bar). Arms V.

1. ∩→ sR, Lxf, sR, Lxb; travelling turn clockwise in 3 steps, Lxf; ∩← Rxb, sL, Rxf, sL; ∩→ sR, Lxf let go of hands & clap low, repl. R, rejoin hands ∩← sL.   x 2

2. ∩ big loping steps curving into centre (i.e. moving to right a little as you go in, last step should be straight ↑) bringing hands gradually up a litte R, L, R, L let go of hands & clap twice at neck level on beats 3 ½ and 4; ∩↓ R, L, (rejoin hands when you can) R, ∩← sway L.   x 2

Dance starts off in sync with the vocal melody line, then diverges from it, then rejoins it again later. You could try part 2 unjoined.

Translation of lyrics;

Why all this hate between you which you teach your children?
The world looks at you and surpasses your understanding
You who resemble neither a westerner nor an Arab
Your faith in the tribes blinds you to the truth
Even if God were to send a blessing down for you to share
With a friend, they will only betray your confidence.

Paul Boizot revised 16.04.13

s