MISERLOU
Greek

The origin (Holden and Vouras 1965) of Miserlou is most interesting inasmuch as it originated at Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In 1945, Professor Brunhilde Dorsch, hoping to find a Greek dance for a program, contacted a Greek-American student, Mercine Nesotas, who taught several Greek dances to their dance group. The group enjoyed the dance Syrtos Haniotikos the most; Miss Nesotas called it the Kritikos. Since the appropriate music was not available, someone suggested that the steps be adapted to a slower piece of music, Miserlou. This dance was taught by Monty Mayo, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, at Oglebay Folk Dance Camp, Wheeling, West Virginia, in 1948. It is danced all over the world now, and by Greeks, too!

Music: Record: Folkraft 1060; RCA LPA 4129, LMP 1620; Kolo Festival 45-4804, LP 1505; Elektra LP EKS 7206; Festival 3505. Piano: "Miserlou" by M. Roubanis, Colonial Music Publishing Company, 168 West 23rd, New York, New York.

Formation: One large broken circle, hands joined, lead dancers at right end of line.

Steps: Two-step, grapevine.

DIRECTIONS FOR THE DANCE

Meter 4/4

MEASURES

1	Beginning right, step in place (count 1). Hold (count 2). Pointing left toe in front of right, describe an arc to left toward right heel (counts 3-4). Circle moves counterclockwise.
2	Step left behind right (count 1). Step right to side (count 2). Step left across in front of right (count 3), and pivot counterclockwise a half-turn on left to face reverse line of direction (count 4).
3	Beginning right and moving clockwise, take one two-step.
4	Step back on left (count 1). Step right to side, body facing center (count 2). Step left across in front of right (count 3). Hold (count 4).

NOTE

The dancer at the right end of the broken circle leads the line in serpentine fashion, coiling it counterclockwise, then reversing and uncoiling it clockwise, while executing the dance pattern.

VARIATION

Measure 4: Beginning left, take one two-step backward, moving counterclockwise, and on last step pivot right on ball of left foot to face center.