

OMÁL DIPÁT

Greece (Póntos)

Omál Dipát (oh-MAHL thee-PAHT), or smooth (dance) from Dipát, was learned by Katina Savvidis in Athens during 1973-74 from members of the Dora Stratou Theatre. The dance is done by the Pontic Greeks who originally lived by the shores of the Black Sea in what is now Turkey since at least the third century before the Christian era. During an exchange of population between Greece and Turkey in 1923 and 1924, many of these people came to live in Greece with the majority of them immigrating to Macedonia in the north. These people today have a strong sense of identity as Pontians. This is apparent in their dialect which utilizes whole phrases of ancient Greek. In addition, their music, much of which is played on a lyre known as a kemenché, and their dance, which is distinctively different from dances found in other areas of Greece, reflect their Pontic identity.

Omál Dipát is also known as Omál Trapezoundéiko (from the city of Trapezóús, now Trabazon, Turkey) and Lemóna (Lemon, a girl's name).

RECORD: Folkraft LP-6 "Greek Folk Dances Vol. II," side B, band 4

FORMATION: Circle or lines of mixed M and W, leader at R end, with hands joined and held at shoulder height in "W" pos.

STEPS AND STYLING: These notes are meant to be used only as a refresher cue sheet and are not intended to convey any styling.

Music 9/8

PATTERN

The music is played in a 9-count rhythm grouped 2-2-2-1-2, or slow-slow-slow-quick-slow (here noted as S-S-S-qS).

Meas INTRODUCTION - none (or wait 10 meas for vocal)

1 Facing ctr, step fwd R (ct S), swing L leg to ctr (ct S), step fwd L (ct S), touch R beside L (ct q), hold (ct S),

2 Moving slightly diag bwd during this meas, step bwd R (ct S), raise L in front (ct S), step bwd L (ct S), step bwd R (ct q), raise L in front (ct S),

3 Step swd L (ct S), raise R in front (ct S), step slightly swd R (ct S), step slightly swd L (ct q), raise R in front (ct S).

Repeat entire dance from beginning.

Taught by: Katina Savvidis