

OMÁL KERASOUNDEÍKO

Greece (Póntos)

Omál Kerasoundéiko (oh-MAHL keh-rah-soon-DEH-ee-koh), or smooth (dance) from Kerasoús (now Giresun, Turkey) which is on the Black Sea, was learned from performers of the Dora Stratou Theatre by Katina Savvidis in Athens during 1973-74.

Pontos is an ancient region of northeastern Asia Minor which borders on the Black Sea. Under the treaty of Lausanne in 1923, the Greeks, who had lived there for over 2,500 years, were involved in a population exchange with Turks living in Greece, and they came to Greece essentially as refugees.

Most Pontic dances were originally done in the villages in a closed circular formation, but more recently the young Pontics are dancing them in open circles and even lines, having been influenced by the performing groups which find these formations more appealing to audiences. Pontic dances are the most difficult of the Greek dances because of the "alien" and monotonous rhythm and style of the music which is always played on the Pontic lýra (or kemenché). Many different tunes are played for this dance.

Omál Kerasoundéiko is also known as Omál Sampsoúdéiko (from Sampsoús, now Samsun, Turkey) and Kotsikhtón Omál (lively or bouncy).

RECORD: Folkraft LP-8 "Greek Folk Dances Vol. III," side B, band 5

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 9/16

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 4 meas)

1 Facing ctr, step swd R (ct S), hold (ct S), step L across in back of R (ct S), step swd R (ct q), hold (ct S),

2 Step L across in front of R (ct S), hold (ct S), step swd R (ct S), step L across in front of R (ct q), hold (ct S).

Variation: Hop on the last ct of previous meas (ct 9) and leave that ft in contact with the floor during the step on the first ct of the next meas.

Taught by Katina Savvidis