

Paraliakos

Greece

This Greek dance was learned by Lee Otterholt from Giorgios Lelakis (well-known Cretan dance teacher) in the mid to late 90s. Giorgios thinks the dance resembles dances like "Gaitenaki rodou." The melody is sometimes referred to as "Vratsera," a type of boat mentioned in the song text.

TRANSLATION: By the seaside or beach dance

PRONUNCIATION: pah-rah-lee-ah-KOHSS

MUSIC: CD: Balkan and Beyond, #1 "Vratsera," a tape made by Giorgios Lelakis for Lee.

FORMATION: Mixed lone curved line. Either front basket (L over R) or low hand hold.

METER: 2/4

PATTERN

Meas.

INTRODUCTION: Start at beg of any musical phrase.

DANCE

- 1 Facing R of ctr and moving to R (LOD) - step L across R (ct 1); step R fwd on ball of ft (ct &); step L across R (ct 2).
- 2 Facing ctr - step (sway) R to R (leaving ball of L in place) bending knee slightly - turn to face slightly L of ctr (ct 1); repeat ct 1 with opp ftwk (sway L) and face L of ctr (ct 2).
- 3 Step R fwd twd ctr (ct 1); step L diag bkwd L on ball of ft (ct 2); small leap on R beside L (ct &).
- 4 Step L behind R (ct 1); step R to R (ct 2).

Note: Meas 3 and meas 4, ct 1 described a "D" on the floor pattern.

Even though the dance steps go in a regular 4 meas (8 cts) pattern, the music is, for the most part not in phrases of 4 meas (8 cts), so the dance phrase and the music phrase do not match. As a result you could begin anywhere you want in the music (as long as it is on the ct, and not on the off beat!) Another consequence of this non-concurrence is that you could (theoretically) begin the dance at any point in the dance phrase. I begin as Giorgios did, as he is my original source for this dance.

Original dance notes by Lee Otterholt
R&S'd from observation, video, and errata by Dorothy Daw, 9-03

Presented by Loui Tucker
Camp Hess Kramer Institute
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LYRICS

Pote tha nixome pania / na katso sto timoni, (2x)
Na do tis Leros ta vouna / na moudiathoun I poni? (2x)
A-ah, vratsera mou ella yia tho / pou'echo dyo loyia na sou po.
Ximerose, Anatoli / to kosmo na fotisi, (2x)
Ke ti vratsera pou'erchete / na tin kalosorisi, (2x)
A-ah, paï o brouzos sta fountair / kio keros de sioundari.
Pafse Vouria mou na fisas / ta kimata n'afrisiss, (2x)
Ke ti vratsera pou'erchete / na mi ti foverisis (2x).
A-ah, paï o brouzos sta fountari / ke tou spasi to kontari.

O-oh...

When will se set sail / so I can sit at the tiller,
So I can see the mountains of Leros / so that my pains will subside?
A-ah, my little fishing boar come here / since I have something to tell you.
Bring the dawn, oh eastern sky / and shine your light on the world,
And welcome my little fishing boat that is approaching.
A-ah, the breeze is getting stronger / and the weather is not subsiding.
Oh north wind stop blowing / and making foam on the waves,
And do not frighten my little fishing boat that is approaching.
A-ah, the breeze is getting stronger / and it will break the mast.
O-oh...