VLACHA
(Naxos)

Naxos is the largest island of the Cyclades in the Aegean. The dance Vlacha is performed during "apokreas" the pre-Lenten carnival season. Many dances associated with the carnival festivities have a satiric or ribald nature. In Greece the term Vlach can refer to any population of shepherds or specifically to the ethnic minority which speaks a Latin based language related to Romanian. Often it is used as a pejorative meaning "country bumpkin", which is most likely the case here.

MUSIC: Dances of the Greek Islands

FORMATION: Open circle, shoulder hold

METER: 2/4   PATTERN

Meas

PATTERN A

1   Facing slightly R of ctr: Step R fwd LOD (ct 1); Step L fwd in front of R (ct 2).
2   Step R fwd (ct 1); Swing L gently in front of R (ct 2).
3   Step L back in place (ct 1); Touch R next to L (ct 2).

Repeat Meas 1-3 twice (= 3x all together)

PATTERN B INTRO

1   Step R fwd LOD (ct 1); Hopping on R, lift L up (ct 2), Step L across & in front of R (ct 2&).
2   Step R fwd (ct 1); Hop on R, lifting L up & behind and pivoting to face slightly L of ctr. (ct 2).
3   Step L back RLOD (ct 1), Step R back (ct 1&); Step L back (ct 2),

PATTERN B

1   Pivoting to face slightly R of ctr, Step R fwd LOD (ct 1), Step L fwd (ct 1&); Step R fwd (ct 2), Step L fwd (ct 2&).
2   Same as Meas 2 of B INTRO.
3   Same as Meas 3 of B INTRO.

Repeat Meas 1-3 twice (= 3x all together).

PATTERN C

1   Same as Meas 1 of B above.
2   Same as Meas 2 of A above.
3   Same as Meas 3 of A above.

ONE DANCE CYCLE: A A A B-INTRO B B B C

Presented by Joseph Kaloyanides Graziosi at the Laguna Folkdancers Festival 1994