

# ZONARADHIKOS

(North Thrace/Anatoliki Romylia)

The Zonaradhikos is the most popular line dance of the region of Thrace. From the word zonari, meaning 'sash', the dance name refers to the linkage often used in forming the dance chain, ie, holding onto your immediate partners' sash or belt. Other hand holds are as common today and previously, when dance lines were segregated by sex in much of the Balkans, women usually used the common open arm hold. The Zonaradhikos varies from region to region, the version presented here is from the area of North Thrace, often called Anatoliki Romylia, now a part of Bulgaria. The Greek population of this region, centered in the Yambol-Topolovgrad area, resettled in Greece in the 1920s, where they have, to a remarkable degree, preserved their dance and music traditions. The version of this dance performed by males with skillful syncopated scuff and stamp steps is called Chesto. Sometimes the most talented of the dancers will break from the dance circle and form a short straight dance line in the middle of the circle in order to execute the more difficult of the tsalimia, the "improvised" variations. Source of the version presented here is Ted Petrides, Yannis Ghutsides, and the inhabitants of Neo Monastiri.

MUSIC: Dances of Greece 1994

RHYTHM: 6/8 Dancers' cts: 1 2

FORMATION: Open circle (traditionally with men at the front end and at the very end of the line) with L over R under in a front cross arm formation, grasp the belts of the partners to your immediate R and L; and/or open "w" hold with arms swinging down in cts 7 & 8 and up in cts 9 & 10, when not performing variations.

---

METER: 6/8

PATTERN

---

Meas

## BASIC PATTERN

- 1 Facing ctr, Step R fwd slightly diag (ct 1); Step L fwd next to (or pass) R (ct 2).
- 2 Step R fwd slightly diag (ct 1); (sl bounce on R), Lift L up (ct 2).
- 3 Step L (across) in front of R (ct 1); Lift R slightly off ground (ct 2).
- 4 Step R back slightly diag (ct 1); Step L back slightly diag (ct 2).
- 5 Step R back slightly diag (ct 1); Lift L slightly off ground (ct 2).
- 6 Step L back & slightly behind R (ct 1); Lift R off ground ct (2).

## VARIATION ON BASIC

- 3 Step L in front of R (ct 1); Step R to R (still behind L ) (ct 2).
- 4 Hold (can raise L slightly off ground) (ct 1); Step L back (ct 2).

ZONARADHIKOS cont

MEAS

VARIATION A

- 5 Step R back (ct 1); Quick step back onto L next to R (ct 1&); Step back onto R (ct 2).  
6 Step L back (ct 1); Quick step back onto R next to L (ct 1&); Step back onto L (ct 2).  
NOTE: The footwork is syncopated throughout, often with a tendency to stamp the foot in ct 1 while "balancing" on the opposite foot's ball. Ct 2 is often scuffed from the heel. These tendencies become more apparent as the line dances more "in place".

VARIATION B

- 3 Step L fwd (&); Step R (just slightly fwd &) slightly to the R (ct 1); Drag L forcefully (click) next to R, pushing out the R sideways (ct 2).

VARIATION C

- 3 Step L fwd (ct 1); Pivoting to face just L of ctr, swing out R foot to the side (ct 2).  
4 Click R down next to L, pushing L out to the side (ct 1); Step L back ct (2).

"KANSIMO"

- 1 Execute the basic facing L of ctr and diag fwd L (cts 1,2)  
2 Step L fwd diag L (ct 1); Pivoting to face ctr, lift R up (ct 2).  
3 Step L across and in front of R (ct 1); Step R slightly R (ct 2).  
4 Hold (ct 1); Step L back (ct 2).  
5 Step R slightly back (ct 1); Pushing off from R, leap onto L with reverse bicycle movement of R, starting into crouch (ct 2).  
6 Continue down to full squat (ct 1); Rise up from squat (ct 2).  
1-6 Repeat or execute basic pattern or:

- 1 Stamp R to R (ct 1); Stamp R sl fwd (ct 2).  
2 Step R in place or slightly to L (ct 1); Swing L up & fwd (ct 2).  
3-6 Execute as in basic pattern or Var A

"KUSTO"

- 1 Execute as in Basic  
2 Step R fwd (ct 1); Quick step L next to R (ct 1&); Step R fwd (ct 2).  
3 Swing L up & fwd (ct 1); Breaking from the R knee, push L slightly downwards (ct 2).  
4 Lift L up & back from the knee (ct 1); Step L back (ct 2).  
5-6 Execute Variation A