

# KARSILAMAS

**SOURCE:** The Karsilamas is danced in Macedonia, Greece and in Asia Minor. It is a couple dance, with a great variety of styles, and body movements, as well as gestures. In Macedonia for instance it is lively and bouncy and more uplifting. With the advent and popularization of the bouzouki (string instrument) the dance has taken a different emphasis as opposed to the style in the villages. The rhythm has remained the same, but it has lost its peasant style, and more of the taverna, or cabaret freeform. Handkerchiefs are used loosely, with great improvisations interacting with the dancers.

**FORMATION:** Couples facing each other; with arms extended out, holding onto handkerchiefs or hands at waist.

**RECORD:** An Intersection Of Greek Dances

9/8	PATTERN
Measure	FIG A
1	1. Step to R with R ft 1,2
	2. Step to R with L ft, crossing behind 1,2
2	3. step to R with R ft 1,2
	4. Raise L ft to R ankle, and hold 1,2,3.
1 & 2	Repeat with opposite ftwk DO ALTOGETHER 8 TIMES
	FIG B
1 & 2	Repeating same ftwk, dancers facing each other come shoulder to shoulder starting with R shoulders, then bwd away, then L shoulders, then away DO ALTOGETHER TWICE
	FIG C
	Repeating same ftwk on first 1,2,3,4, R shoulders on next fours both dancers go fwd, now you are back to back on next fours travel directly bwd and finish at point of L shoulders and on next fours travel bwd and end up facing each other (do, si, do) REPEAT SAME STARTING ON LEFT SHOULDERS
	FIG C
	same ftwk only turning to R, then Turn to L, then turn to R, and then to L REPEAT ALTOGETHER 8 TIMES
	FIG D (MEN)
	step R ft to R
	Step L ft to R
	Squat on both feet together
	Rise and slap R ft with R hand
	ALTERNATE AND DO ALTOGETHER 8 TIMES
	(WOMEN)
	Step R ft to R
	Step L ft to R
	step r ft to R
	bring feet together, and do half squat

presented by Athan Karras

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