

Kasap'kia

(Constantinople, Marmara, Thrace)

This well-known dance, originally associated with the Constantinople (Istanbul)-Marmara Sea regions, is also a popular folkdance in Thrace, E. Macedonia, and the E. Aegean islands and Asia Minor coast. In the last few decades, it has become a standardized part of the "urban" popular song dance repertoire, undergoing modifications in style, step and tempo. In a more upbeat "Hora" style, it has become a pan-Hellenic dance. The name of the dance, along with its variants: Hasapikos, Hasaposervikos, Palio or Politiko Hasapiko, Kasapiko, Hasapia, etc., means "of the butchers" (Kasap (Ar.) = Butcher). Supposedly, the dance was originally performed or made popular by members of the Butcher's Guild in Constantinople during Ottoman times.

Source: Theodore Kekes, et. al. (Thrace), Solon Peshinjioglov (Istanbul).

Pronunciation:

Cassette: Graziosi - Asia Tape

2/4 meter

Formation: Open circle, shldr hold ("T" pos).

Meas

Pattern

BASIC.

- 1 Facing slightly L of ctr, step R obliquely bkwd to R (ct 1); step L diag R bkwd (ct 2)
- 2 Step R obliquely bkwd to R (ct 1); lift L up and slightly bkwd of R (ct 2) (or touch-close L next to R).
- 3 Step L fwd into ctr of circle (ct 1); brush R next to and swing it slightly fwd of L (ct 2).

Common Variant Substitutes:

Meas 2-3: Can substitute pas de basque steps fwd or bkwd (cts 1,&,2).

Meas 1: Large step R diag bkwd to R (ct 1); slide and fall onto L behind R, kicking R straight-legged out (slightly fwd) to the L (ct 2).

VARIATION I.

- 1-2 Repeat meas 1-2 of Basic.
- 3 Step L fwd (ct 1); step R in front of L ft (ct &); step L in place (ct 2).

VARIATION II.

- 1 Repeat meas 1 of Basic.
 - 2 Step R ft obliquely bkwd to R (ct 1); close L ft beside or slightly behind R (ct &); step R in place (ct 2).
 - 3 Repeat meas 3 Var I.
- Note: During Var I and II, it is common to lift slightly on the L before meas 1, ct 1 and land on both ft slightly apart on meas 1, ct 1. This is like a "ker-PLUNK."

VARIATION III.

- 1 Leap R bkwd (L remains on floor) and twizzle or twist L heel slightly to R (ct 1); Repeat ct 1, opp frwk and direction (ct 2).
- 2 Jump on both ft apart (ct 1); close ft together (ct 2).
- 3 Repeat meas 3, Var I.

Kasap'kia (continued)

VARIATION IV.

- 1 Step R obliquely bkwd to R, wt on heels (ct 1); step L ft diag bkwd R, twisting R (toes up) to R (ct 2).
- 2 Repeat meas 2, Basic; or meas 2, Var II; or leap R to R (ct 1); step L across and in front of (touching) R, keeping leg straight (ct &); hold (ct 2).
- 3 Repeat meas 3 of Basic.

Presented by Joseph Kaloyanides Graziosi