

KRITIKÓS SYRTÓS

Crete

This is a "syrtós" dance from the island of Kríti (Crete), and is done all over the island. It is sometimes called the "Syrtós Haniótikos" after the city of Hania where it is most popular. This is the main Cretan dance.

Bibliography: Elliniki Hori, V. Papahristos (Athens, 1960).
Greek Folk Dances, M. Vouras and R. Holden (New Jersey, 1965).
Folk Dances of the Greeks, T. and E. Petrides (New York, 1961).

Record: Demotiko-Discphon LPM-5. Any good Kritikós Syrtós music can be used.

Formation: M and W in a line with hands joined in W position.

Meter: 2/4 Counted 1, 2, & or Slow, Quick, Quick.

Characteristics: The steps are usually quick and small, and in general, the feeling is happy. The styling depends on the tempo of the music and where the dancer is from. The leader can do variations such as turns, slaps, or step variations. He can do variations of his own, but it is not usual for everyone in the line to do them also. Although there are certain simple variations which the whole line may do, it is not the case that the fancy variations are done by everyone at once. It is not an ethnic characteristic of this dance to have everyone do several complicated step variations--the step variations for the whole line are simple in nature. If the second man in a line knows the leader's variations, he might do them too, but this is the exception and not the rule.

Meas

Pattern

- 1 Touch ball of L slightly fwd (small movement) (ct 1); step on L in back of R (ct 2); step on R to R (ct &).
- 2 Step on L across in front of R (ct 1); step on R to R (leaving L ft over spot where it was) (ct 2); step L in place (ct &).
- 3 Step on R across in front of L (face L) (leaving L ft over spot where it was) (ct 1); step back in place on L (ct 2); Step sdwd R (ct &).
- 4 Step on L across in front of R (ct 1); touch R beside L (ct 2); step R beside L (ct &).

Variations

Variation I: Measures 1, 2, and 4 are the same as before.

- 3 Step on R across in front of L (ct 1); hop on R (ct &); step back in place on L (ct 2); leap sdwd to R on R ft (ct &).

Continued...

Straight Line Variation

- 1 Touch L slightly fwd (ct 1); step L across in front of R (ct 2) moving and facing LOD, step R (ct &).
- 2 Step L in LOD (ct 1); step R (ct 2); step L (ct &).
- 3 In LOD, step R, L, R (cts 1, 2, &).
- 4 Step on L ft facing ctr (ct 1); touch R beside L (ct 2); Step R beside L (ct &).

Triangle Variation

- 1 Touch L slightly fwd (ct 1); step L diag fwd R (ct 2); step R diag fwd R (ct &).
- 2 Step L diag fwd R (ct 1); step R across in front of L (ct 2); step on L to L (ct &).
- 3 Step on R across in front of L (ct 1); step on L diag bkwd R (ct 2); step on R diag bkwd R (ct &).
- 4 Step on L diag bkwd R (ct 1); touch R beside L (ct 2); step on R beside L (ct &).

Presented by Pavlos Dascalakis

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Pattern

1 Touch ball of L slightly fwd (small movement) (ct 1); step on L in back of R (ct 2); step on R to R (ct &).

2 Step on L across in front of R (ct 1); step on R to R (ct 2); leaving L ft over spot where it was) (ct 2); step L in place (ct &).

3 Step on R across in front of L (face L) (leaving L ft over spot where it was) (ct 1); step back in place on L (ct 2); Step sbwd R (ct &).

4 Step on L across in front of R (ct 1); touch R beside L (ct 2); step R beside L (ct &).

Variations

Variation 1: Measures 1, 2, and 4 are the same as before.

Step on R across in front of L (ct 1); hop on R (ct 2); step back in place on L (ct 2); leap sbwd to R on R ft (ct &).

Continued...