

Ksisyrtos

(Thrace)

The "Ksisyrtos" or "Ksesyrtos" is one of the more popular line dances found in the Dhidhimotichon region of West Thrace. As in most line dances of the region, there was traditionally a strict segregation of men and women, with the men positioned in the front end of the line. There the men would release the hand hold and perform a squatting figure during the melodic refrain. It is this "breaking" of the dance chain which gives the dance its name, Ksesyrtos" meaning the "un-syrto". Other names for the dance are "Ap' to Ghona" ("from the knees") and "Kathiston" ("squatting"). Source is Theodoros Kekes, gaida player from Kyani village, and fellow Thracians.

Pronunciation:

Cassette: Graziosi - Asia Tape

Meter: 6/8, 1 count per 3 beats

Formation: Open circle, segregated line (M at the front end, W at the far end), though this rule rarely holds nowadays. "W" arm pos.

Meas

Pattern

BASIC - "THRACIAN SYRTO".

- 1 Facing slightly R of ctr, moving in LOD, run R fwd to R (ct 1); close L slightly behind R (ct &); run R fwd (ct 2).
- 2 Run L fwd (ct 1); close R slightly behind L (ct &); run L fwd, arms swing abruptly fwd and down (ct 2).
- 3 Turning to face ctr, step R in LOD, arms beginning to swing fwd and up (ct 1); close L (no wt) beside R, arms reaching "W" pos (ct 2) or close L beside R (ct &); step R in place (ct 2).
- 4 Step L diag bkwd L (ct 1); close R beside L, no wt (ct 2) or close R beside L (ct &); step L in place (ct 2).

MEN'S VARIATION.

- 1-2 Repeat meas 1-2 of Basic.
- 3 Facing ctr, step R slightly to R and clap both hands, raising L leg slightly, knee bent (ct 1); slap L hand on L upper thigh (ct &); leap onto L in place and slap R hand on outer R heel, which is raised to R side (ct 2).
- 4 Squat onto both ft, knees turned slightly out (ct 1); raise onto L, knee bent, and kick R fwd, knee straight, slightly diag to R (ct 2).

Presented by Joseph Kaloyanides Graziosi