

LATCHINAS
(Pontos)

The dance Latchinas, like the dance Kotchari and some others, was originally associated with the Pontic communities of the Russian occupied Caucasus. Throughout the 19th Century, Pontic Greeks emigrated in large numbers to the Caucasus (Kars, Tiflis, Sohoum) where they formed compact village communities and preserved both their language and Pontic customs. A Caucasian origin for this dance is also evident by the 3/8 meter in which it was originally performed. Today however, as the dance has spread to non Caucasian Pontics it is more common to hear the dance performed to a meter of 7/8 (2 2 3), which is more familiar to the central Pontic homeland. The name comes from the Turkish "Laçin", a type of hawk, the Greek form "Latchinas" being a women's name (see Ted Petrides, Archeion Pontou, vol 38).

Formation: closed or open circle; arms start in the V position.

Meter: 7/8 (2 2 3)

or 4 3

3/8 (2 1)

Dancer's Cts: 1 2 i e S Q

MEAS

PATTERN

- 1 Facing sl L of ctr & moving sl diag toward the ctr of circle
Step R fwd (ct 1)*; Step L fwd next to R, lifting R sl off the ground (2).
- 2-3 Repeat action of Meas 1 2X.
- 4 Bending sl fwd from waist & shoulders, swinging arms back, Step R diag bk RLOD (1); Swinging arms fwd, Step L bk behind R (2).
- 5 Swinging arms bk, Step R bk (1); Swinging arms fwd up & above head level, bouncing on R turning to face ctr, Lift L off ground (2)**
- 6 Step L next to R (1); Bounce on L, lifting R off ground (2).
- 7 Repeat action of Meas 6 above on opp ftwk.
- 8 Step L bk in place (1); Bounce on L, turnig to face sl L of ctr & swinging arms down to side, Lift L off ground.

NOTE:

Ct 1, Meas 1-3; The ct unit of 4 or 2 is still stylistically subdivided into its co^mponent parts of 2.2 or 1.1 so that there is a slight "break " from the knee on the second ½ of the unit OR there can also be a sl hop or push off from the Lft on the first ½ of the time unit.

Ct2, Meas 5-8; The lift off ground, usually very low, can also be done as a (lift)-touch in place.

presented by Joseph Kaloyanides Graziosi