

LEN IRTHE MAIS

THEN IRTHE MAIS

(Greek Folk Dance from Thrace)

This dance is from the repertoire of the Greek children's folk dance group "Ta Paedia" (The Children) from Thrace which toured the USA recently. It is a lively and gay children's dance with a catchy melody; the accompanying lyrics sing about the coming of spring. The above title translates "spring isn't coming" and is taken from the copy in the program book. However, the opening line of the song is "Len' Irthe Mais"--"they say spring is coming". These dance descriptions are by Chris Tasulis, well-known folk dance teacher for many years in the Los Angeles area, from whom the dance was also learned.

RECORD: FEZ 708-A THEN IRTHE MAIS

Meter: 2/4 (count 1 & 2 &).

Formation: Line dance, hands held low, leader at right end, face LOD

Introduction: 8 measures. Begin dance on vocal.

COUNTS

FIGURE A

- 1 & 2 & Facing LOD (diagonally R) STEP-HOP forward twice
(R hop, L hop).
3 & 4 & Facing center, step-hop forward on R, lifting joined hands
forward (cts. 3 &); step-hop backward on L, lowering hands
(ct. 4 &). Repeat action of cts. 1-4, Fig. A.

FIGURE B

- 1 & Facing LOD, step R, step L behind R, step R (backward pas de
2 & Repeat backward pas de bas starting with L ft. bas)
3 & 4 & Step-hop forward and backward as in cts. 3 & 4 & in Fig. A
Repeat action of cts. 1-4, Fig. B.

FIGURE C

- 1 & 2 & Two pas de bas moving into center of circle (RLR, LRL).
3 & 4 & Two step-hops still moving towards center (R hop, L hop).
Repeat action of cts. 1-4, Fig. C, but moving backwards.
NOTE: Hands remain down for Fig. C (but go high in A and C).