

# Happy Folk Dances

MICHAEL HERMAN'S FOLK DANCE ORCHESTRA

Dance Directions by Michael Herman, Folk Dance House, New York City  
Arrangements by Walter Eriksson

## SIDE 1

## MISIRLOU (Greece-America)



This dance is often erroneously referred to as the *Kraikos*. Actually the *Misirlou*, a watered-down version of the *Kritikos*, originated at a Greek festival in Pittsburgh. The traditional music was unavailable and the *Misirlou* tune was substituted. In its modified form, the dance became popular with American folk dancers and is now a world-wide favorite.

**OPENING FORMATION:** No partners are needed. Dancers stand in a circle with elbows bent, little fingers linked. Sometimes dancers are linked by holding the ends of handkerchiefs. The circle is broken, with a leader at one end.

**PART 1:** All face center and step on right foot. Pause slightly.

Point left toe forward. Pause slightly.

Take 3 quick steps, moving sideward to the right, as follows:

Step on left behind right; step on right to side; place left foot down beside right foot and pause.

**PART 2:** Without dropping hands, all

face to the left, and sweeping right foot forward in an arc, walk to the left straight forward—right, left, right.

Now walk backward 3 steps—left, right, left—and pause slightly.

Face center and repeat dance from beginning.

Greek dancers usually sound off with a hissing "ssssss" to express joy. Dancers may want to do this to add flavor, but it should not be overdone.

**TEACHING HINT:** In teaching the dance, the leader may simplify PART 1 in this manner:

Step on right foot. Point left toe forward. Now take 3 steps in place—left, right, left. After dancers have done this a few times, they may then take those last 3 steps, not in place, but moving sideward as described in the directions above. It is interesting to know that this simplifies the dance, whereas teaching the sideward step without preparation sometimes confuses the dancers and complicates the dance.