

Paraliakós

(Greece)

Greek dance learned from Giorgios Lelakis (well-known Cretan dance teacher) in the mid to late 90s. "Paraliakós" ("pah-rah-lee-ah-KOHSS") means "by the seaside" and Giorgios calls the dance "the beach dance." Giorgios thinks the dance resembles dances like "Gaitenaki rodou." The melody is sometimes referred to as "Vratsera," a type of boat mentioned in the song text.

MUSIC: *Balkan and Beyond*, Band 1; "Vratsera," tape made by for me by Giorgios Lelakis

FORMATION: Long curved line. Either front baskethold (right arm under, left arm over) or low handhold.

CTS

PATTERN

FIGURE

- 1 & 2, 3 Facing slightly and moving to the R, step on L ft in front of R (ct 1); step on ball of R ft to R (ct &); step on L ft in front of R (ct 2); step and sway on R ft to the R, turning body slightly to the L (ct 3).
- 4, 5 Step and sway on the L ft to the L, turning body slightly to the R (ct 4); step straight fwd into the center on the R ft (ct 5).
- 6 & 7, 8 Step diag bkwd to the L on the ball of the L ft (ct 6); close and step (a small "jump") on the R ft next to the L (ct &); step on L ft crossed behind R (and "push off" from R ft) (ct 7), step on R ft to the R (ct 8).

(Steps 5, 6 & 7 together describe a backwards "D" floor pattern.)

Even though the dance steps go in a regular 8-count pattern, the music is, for the most part not in phrases of 8, so the dance phrase and the music phrase do not coincide.

As a result you could begin anywhere you want in the music (as long as it is on the count and not the offbeat!) Another consequence of this non-concurrence is that you could (theoretically) begin the dance at any point in the dance phrase. I begin as Giorgios did, as he is my original source for this dance.

cont...

Paraliakós Song Text:

Pote tha nixome pania / na katso sto timoni, (2x)
Na do tis Leros ta vouna / na moudiathoun i poni? (2x)

A-ah, vratsera mou ella yia tho / pou'echo dyo loyia na sou po.

Ximerose, Anatoli / to kosmo na fotisi, (2x)
Ke ti vratsera pou'erchete / na tin kalosorisi. (2x)

A-ah, paí o brouzos sta fountari / kio keros de sioundari.

Pafse Vouria mou na fisas / ta kimata n'afrisis, (2x)
Ke ti vratsera pou'erchete / na mi ti foverisis. (2x)

A-ah, paí o brouzos sta fountari / ke tou spasi to kontari.

Translation:

When will we set sail / so I can sit at the tiller, 2x
So I can see the mountains of Leros / so that my pains will subside? 2x

A-ah, my little fishing boat come here / since I have something to tell you.

Bring the dawn, oh Eastern Sky / and shine your light on the world, 2x
And welcome my little fishing boat that is approaching. 2x

A-ah, the breeze is getting stronger / and the weather is not subsiding.

Oh North Wind stop blowing / and making foam on the waves, 2x
And do not frighten my little fishing boat that is approaching. 2x

A-ah, the breeze is getting stronger / and it will break the mast.