

SYRTOS SILIVRIANOS (*Syrtos from the Town of Silivri, now in Turkey*)

(Double line version) (Greece)

- Source:** This version of Syrtos Silivrianos was danced in Los Angeles, CA, and later taught by Luis Goena in Santa Barbara around 1970. We learned it from Wes Cretney, who learned it there, and now dances in Ashland, OR.
- Background:** One of many Syrtos from Greece, in the typical slow-quick-quick syrtos rhythm. "Previous to 1922, Silyvria, Greece, was the source of the best Greek yoghurt and very good cheese, and supplied Constantinople (Istanbul) with daily shipments by boat. Because of such commerce, the town exchanged much influence with the islands and coastal areas of the Aegean Sea...Syrtos Silyvrianos is actually a particular tune for the Syrtos Nisiotikos (Island Syrtos). Because of the economic and cultural influence of Silyvria, where the melody was composed, the Silyvrianos became the most universal tune for the Syrtos of the Aegean Islands and the western coast of Asia Minor, though dancing style might vary from place to place...The music for this dance has regular 8 measure sequences. Properly, however, this remains strictly an ad-lib dance with those in line following the leader as best they can. This Aegean Syrtos usually precedes the Aegean Ballos (a couple dance) and the steps are very similar." (from "Greek Folkdancers" published by Rickey Holden, 1965.)
- Pronunciation:** SEER-tose Sill-iv-ree-AHN-ose
- Music:** Olympia OL24-13 or Roulette LP R25229
- Formation:** Two straight lines of approximate equal length, facing each other. They should be just far enough apart so that when the lines advance, they come together. Front basket hold. *L on top*
- Meter:** 2/4 The dance has its own tune (also used for other Syrtos), in 8-measure phrases.

Meas	Ct	Pattern
1	1	Right foot steps to the side (right).
	2&	Left foot steps across in front of Right, bending knees slightly.
2	1	Right foot steps to the side (right).
	2&	Left foot steps across behind Right, bending knees slightly.
3		Advance with R,L,R in slow-quick-quick rhythm.
4		Repeat Measure 3 with opposite footwork.
5	1	Step on Right.
	2&	Lift Left knee. At this point, the person on the right end of each line pivots 180° to the left on the Right foot, dropping hands with the line they are leaving, and hooking onto the opposite line.
6-7		Retire with L,R,L R,L,R in two measures of slow-quick-quick.
8	1	Step in place on Left foot.
	2&	Cross Right foot in front of Left, touching Right toe to floor, with weight on Left.

The two lines will pulse in and out, and tend to rotate Counterclockwise, as dancers move from one line to the other.

Description by Ginny and Gary Ramey. Background information courtesy of Dorothy Daw, historian, California Folkdance Federation.

Dance presented by Ginny and Gary Ramey at the Seattle Folkdance Festival March 1998.