

Song of Joy

Syrtaki

(Seer-tah-ki)

SOURCE: Syrtaki is the name given to the combination of various Hassapika dances that vary in style and tempo. Syrtaki, meaning "little Syrto," was popularized by the motion picture, "Zorba the Greek." The Hassapika dance of Northern Greece, known as the butcher's dance, became very popular due to its ritualistic elements and because of the idea of a personal "dialogue" between dancers in movement. The seaports of the Aegean took up the dance and in time several forms of the Hassapiko evolved, all still retaining the name Hassapiko, which dates back to Byzantium and the slaughter of swine in Constantinople.

This Sytraki is a line dance that the leader can close in to a semicircle or open up completely with some participants back to back. Leader may call "OOPA" before change of movements. Begin with participants in shoulder hold or holding hands ready to move to R. There are 6 counts of music before the 1st step. 1st step begins on 7th count. Begin with slightly sideways running steps in line of direction (l.o.d.) to R starting w/ R then L crossing in front of R.

(Note)

In this dance, especially in the quicker parts, try to keep your weight on the balls of your feet instead of the heels. You can move more easily this way and it doesn't look so flat footed.

Fig. 1

R, L, R, hop R lifting L (w/ L knee up and L foot hooked slightly across in front of R leg), hop L lifting R (w/ R knee up and R foot hooked slightly across in front of L leg).

(repeat for a total of four times)

(Do slow Draws)

Take slightly wider (about 3 feet) step to R w/ R foot, facing slightly back toward L and perpendicular to line of direction, (l.o.d.), then w/ knees slightly bent draw L together w/ R and close while straightening knees. Repeat to L.

Fig. 2 (Hassapiko)

Leap forward w/ L about 2 feet leaning body fwd while bending R knee so lower R leg is parallel to the floor w/ R toe pointed down. Tap R toe on the floor then bring R forward brushing floor w/ ball of the R and continue swinging the R in a sm circular clkwise motion finishing w/ a step slightly across and behind L.

Swing L stepping across behind R and rocking back on L.

*Step fwd R, step fwd L, rock back on R ready to repeat figure.

(Repeat the complete figure twice)

(Repeat a 3rd time up to *)

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After 3rd Hassapiko;

Step R across L in reverse line of direction, (r.l.o.d.)

w/ a R together R.

Swing L across R pivoting on R w/ a L together L in l.o.d.

Swing R across L pivoting on L w/ a R together R in r.l.o.d.

Swing L across R pivoting on R w/ a L together L in l.o.d.

(Do crossovers)

R across L

L across R

R across L

L across R

(Repeat slow draws as in Fig 1)

(Repeat Fig 2 complete)

(Fig 3)

(Hassaposerviko)

(With slightly bouncy steps)

Step R, step L behind R, hop R lift L, hop L lift R.

(Repeat)

Follow right into 1st part of Fig 1.

R, L, R, hop R lifting L, hop L lifting R.

(Repeat 3 times)

(Repeat slow draws)

(Repeat Fig 2 complete)

(Repeat Fig 3)

Repeat 1st part of Fig 1.

R, L, R, hop R lifting L, hop L lifting R (8 times).

then R, L, R, stomp L, stomp R, stomp L.

Raise arms above heads and shout, "Hey!"