

Tsourapia

Greek

History

This dance occurs all over the southern Balkans. It is also known as **Karsilama**. I first learnt it from Allyn Edwards.

Rhythm

The music is in 9/8 time, counted as 2-2-2-3 or 1-2-3-4 where the fourth beat is longer than the others.

Steps

Usually done in a line, although it can be done in a circle. Arms in a W hold.

Version 1

Take four steps to the right, starting with the right, while facing right of centre.

Facing centre, step to the side with the right, close with the left, step to the side with the right, close with the left. Repeat this to the left with reversed feet.

This version goes well with faster pieces of music.

Version 2

Step to the side with the right, step across behind with the left, step to the side with the right, cross in front with the left with a slow step.

Step to the side with the right, step across behind with the left, step to the side with the right, close the left beside the right - a slow step and the weight remains on the standing foot. Repeat the last four steps but in reversed direction, starting with and moving to the left.

This version works well with slower pieces of music.

Music

Davulja from **Fire in the Feet** by Xenos.

Devetka from **Macedonian Folk Music** by Tsrvena Kniga

Jashino Demiralievo Oro and **Nadje Nadje** from **Macedonia Dances** by Marem Aliev.

Sanke Mena Palikari from **Transports en Commun** by Bratsch.

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Variations

ie slow closing steps can be replaced by two quick stamps or taps where there is a 2-2-2-1-2 rhythm, this seems to be more common in Serbian versions of the music.

Dance description by Andy Bettis 11/2002