

Hiotiko

(Greece)

The island of hIos (known also as Chios) has an extensive and a rich variety of folklore and dances. This particular tune has become most popular all over Greece. It is therefore danced commonly by most Greek people as a Syrto. Due to this popularity, because most Greeks are not up to date with every region and island's folklore, and because the musicians also play this tune as a Syrto, it is danced as an island syrto. The tune and the song have become extremely popular and is often played at festivals and family gatherings. The particular difference is evidenced when the musicians neglect to follow the original phrasing which usually is the instrumental musical phrase, often an in-between phrase after the vocal part, which gives this dance its special island characteristic.

Pronunciation: hee-OH-tee-koh

CD: The Spirit of Greek Dance with Athan Karras AK2001

2/4 meter

Formation: Open circle, facing ctr, hands joined in V-pos.

Meas

Pattern

A. BASIC STEP

- 1 Step on R to R (ct 1); step on L across in front of R (ct 2).
- 2 Step on R to R (ct 1); swing L straight leg to R, leaning to L (ct 2).
- 3 Step on L to L (ct 1); swing R leg in front of L to L, leaning to R and bouncing slightly on L (ct 2).
Repeat 6 times (7 in all). Basic Step can be varied by making 2 plain, 2 with turn, 2 plain.

B. SYNCOPATED STEP

- 1 Step on R to R (ct 1); step on L across in front of R (ct 2).
- 2 Leap onto R to R (bending R knee) (ct 1-2); bring L ft close to R ankle, slightly syncopated (ct &).
- 3 Quickly change direction to RLOD with 3 small, quick steps to L (L,R,L) (cts 1,ee,&); swing R in front of L (ct 2).
- 4 Repeat meas 3 with opp ftwk.
- 5 Leap on R to R (ct 1); large step on L to L (ct 2).
Begin alternating Fig A and Fig B.

I. VARIATION (FIG A)

Leader can call for turn to R, turning on meas 1, ct 2 and meas 2, ct 1.

II. VARIATION (FIG B)

On meas 3 and 4, turn CCW to RLOD on L,R,L and swing R ft in front.

III. VARIATION (FIG B)

On meas 3 and 4, turn CW to R on L,R,L, stepping on L behind R and swinging R ft in front of L.

Hiotiko—continued

SONG WORDS:

ENA KARAVI APO TIN HIO
 ME TIS VARKOULES TIS DYIO (2)
 STI SAMO PIGHE KI'ARAXE
 KE KATSE KE LOGHARIASE (2)
 POSO POULIETE TO FYLI
 STIN DYSI STIN ANATOLO (2)
 TIS PANDREMENIS TESSERA
 TIS HIRAS THEKATESSERA (2)

A boat from Hios
 With two little boats following
 It moored on the island of Samos
 And sat and reminisced
 What is the price of a kiss
 In the west and in the east
 The married woman is worth four
 The widow's worth fourteen

Presented by Athan Karras