

Ikariotikos

(Greece)

The colorful island of Ikaria on the Aegean Sea has received its name from the famous Greek mythological tale of young Icarus, son of famous architect Daedalus, who after the completion of the labyrinth for King Minos in Crete, flew away. He warned his son not to fly too close to the sun, for his wings made of wax would melt. But being an obstinate young man, his wings melted and he landed on the land which was named Ikaria after his mishap. The dance in no way reflects the story. It is an open circle dance with indicative movements stylized by the Ikarians which affirm their identity, and bear some resemblance to the “Sousta” dances of the Dodecanese islands with an affinity to the Cretan dances also. The dance is in two parts, a short introduction resembling the “siganos” of Crete and a rhythm of 4/4. The “kariotico” as the Ikarians call it, is in 9 steps with a syncopated tuck step which gives it its own special flair.

Pronunciation: ee-kah-ree-OH-tee-kohs

CD: The Spirit of Greek Dance with Athan Karras AK2001

4/4 meter

Formation: Open circle, facing ctr, hands joined in T-pos or W-pos.

Meas

Pattern

A. INTRODUCTION

- 1 Step on R to R (cts 1-2); step on L across behind R (cts 3-4).
- 2 Step on R to R (cts 1-2); point L heel to L (ft apart) slightly diagonally (cts 3-4).
- 3 Shift wt onto L (cts 1-2); point R to R (ft apart) slightly diagonally (cts 3-4).
- 4-21 Repeat meas 1-3 six times.

B. BASIC IKARIOTIKO STEP

- 1 Step on R to R (cts 1-2); hop on R, swinging L ft (ct 3); tuck L ft behind R heel taking wt (ct 4).
- 2 Step on R to R (cts 1-2); shift wt rocking onto L (ft apart) (ct 3); shift wt rocking onto R (ft apart) (ct 4).
- 3 Step on L crossing in front of R (cts 1-2); step on R to R (ct 3); step on L crossing in front of R (ct 4).
- 4-39 Repeat meas 1-3 twelve times.

C. DOUBLE SWING STEP

- 1-2 Repeat Fig B, meas 1-2.(S,Q,Q; S,Q,Q)
- 3 Step on L across in front of R (cts 1-2); swing R leg in air while crossing and hopping twice on L (cts 3,4).
- 4 Step on R across in front of L (cts 1-2); swing L leg in air while crossing and hopping twice on R (cts 3,4).
- 5 Step on L to R (cts 1-2); step on R to R (ct 3); step on L to R (ct 4).
- 6-35 Repeat meas 1-5 six times.

D. KARIOTIKO PAUSE

- 1-2 Repeat Fig B, meas 1-2.
- 3 Step on L to ctr, raising R ft (cts 1-2); step bkwd on R, raising L ft free in air (ct 3); step on L next to R (ct 4).
- 4-21 Repeat meas 1-3 six times.

Presented by Athan Karras