

Kykladitikos Syrtos

(Silivriano-Cycladic Isles, Greece)

The Syrtos is the most common dance among all Greek people, but it is exemplified with individual styling in the various regions and in particular with the Greek islands. In the Cycladic group of islands, comprised by such islands as Mykonos, Naxos, Paros, Tenos, Santorini, Amorgos, Serifos, Delos, Ios, etc., they share some degree of common cultural identity. They are evident in the music and dances. Being a seafaring people, they also bear similarity to the cultural expressions of Asia Minor, particularly with the coastline regions inhabited by Greeks for thousands of years. Each island also shares in its own indicative folklore expressions in music, song, dance, and costume. The dances often reflect the ease and the lyrical flow of the Aegean sea evidenced in the movements of the dance, as the dancers flow in and out as if they were the ebbing tides of the waves of the seashore. The Cyclades group of islands were named "cyclic" by the ancients who believed when Hera gave birth to Apollo on the sacred island of Delos, they all gathered around in a protective manner to guard the sanctuary. Apollo, being god of wisdom and music, gave the Aegean islands a great musical legacy.

Pronunciation: kee-klah-THEE*-tee-kohs seer-TOHS
* th as in "there"

CD: The Spirit of Greek Dance with Athan Karras AK2001 2/4 meter

Formation: Open circle of dancers in front basket hold.

Meas

Pattern

PATTERN

- 1 Facing L (RLOD), step on R (ct 1); step on L behind R (ct 2).
- 2 Turning to face ctr, step on R to R (ct 1); step on L across in front of R (ct 2).
- 3 Step R, L, R (Q,Q,S) (cts 1,&,2).
- 4 Step L,R, L, swinging R leg up on ct 2 (cts 1,&,2).
- 5 Step R, L, R moving bkwd (cts 1,&,2).
- 6 Repeat meas 5 with opp ftwk.
Repeat from beginning.

VARIATION I

Two lines of dancers can face and interact with each other. On meas 3 and 4, lines approach traveling toward each other and on meas 5 and 6 they back away.

VARIATION II

In a single line, at the end of meas 4, the lead dancer can release from the line and join the end of the line in the basket hold. Subsequent leaders can also leave after leading several sequences.

VARIATION III

In two facing lines, at the end of meas 4, leaders from each line can leave and join the opposite line (either at the same time or separately on meas 4).

Presented by Athan Karras