

Politiko Syrto

(Constantinople, Aegean Area)

Ancient Byzantium was renamed Constantinople after the Emperor Constantine of the Byzantine Empire. Located on the Bosphorus and the Sea of Marmara, it is the gateway to the East and the West. It was a famous political center, a major cultural and intellectual center and the most prestigious city for Greek Orthodox religion. It was also the hub and a leading commercial center for Europeans bartering with the caravan carriers of the East. Its long and complicated name was shortened and was called "Polis" (the city), thus the name Politiko. The city served as a great distributor of cultural dissemination and influenced the music, dances, and songs that crept into the societies of the Aegean islands and the coastline of Greece. The Syrto in particular was influenced by the Ballos from the islands and in turn influenced the styling of the Syrto to the islanders.

Pronunciation: poh-LEE-tee-koh seer-TOH

CD: The Spirit of Greek Dance with Athan Karras AK2001

Rhythm: 7/8 meter 1-2-3, 1-2, 1-2 (S,Q,Q) counted as 1,2,3

Formation: Open circle of dancers, hands joined in V-pos.

Meas

Pattern

A. BASIC POLITIKO SYRTO

- 1 Facing LOD, step fwd on R (ct 1); step on L next to R heel (ct 2); step on R across in front of L (ct 3).
- 2 Facing LOD, step fwd on L (ct 1); step on R next to L heel (ct 2); step on L across in front of R (ct 3).
- 3 Turning to face ctr of circle, step on R to R (ct 1); point L ft to L (ct 2-3).
- 4 Step on L twd ctr (ct 1); point R ft to R (cts 2-3).
- 5 Facing ctr, step bkwd on R (ct 1); point L toe to L (cts 2-3).
- 6 Repeat meas 4.
- 7 Repeat meas 5.
- 8 Step on L across behind R, bending knees (ct 1); pause (cts 2-3).
- 9-48 Repeat meas 1-8 five times (6 times total).

B. TO GYRISMA (with arms stretched out)

- 1-3 Repeat Fig A, meas 1-3.
- 4 Drop handhold and immediately start turning to LOD with R,L,R (cts 1,2,3).
- 5 Continue turning in LOD with L,R,L (cts 1,2,3).
- 6 Rejoining hands, step on R to R (ct 1); point L ft to L (cts 2-3).
- 7 Step on L across behind R (ct 1); pause (cts 2-3).
- 8-35 Repeat meas 1-7 five times (6 times total).

Presented by Athan Karras