

(2/4) (7/8)
SYRTOS-KALAMATIANÓS

(Greece)

Source: The Syrtós is a panhellenic dance. Syrtós means dragging dance, so it more properly applies to dances with a smoother flowing movement. The Kalamatianós has the same basic step as the syrtós, but it is often bouncy and leaping in character. When a dance is leaping, it is called a Pithichtós, or leaping dance. The Syrtós can also be a Pithichtós in styling. Thus, one can see that the nomenclature is somewhat confusing. There is one more criterion for describing the dances: The syrtós is in 2/4 time, the Kalamatianós is in 7/8 time. Actually, then, it is the music which decides what the dance is called. The music also tells the dancer how to dance: Some music demands smooth, dragging steps; other music demands high leaping steps. The dance is described in these three books:

Greek Folk Dances, M. Vouras and R. Holden, (New Jersey, 1965)
Elliniki Hori, V. Papahristo, (Athinaí, 1960)
Folk Dances of the Greeks, T. and E. Petrides, (New York, 1961)

Music: The music is in either 2/4 or 7/8 time. The dance can be done to any number of tunes. Like the Tsámikos, there are thousands of tunes to choose from, so I will just list a few.

"Horós Kalamatianós" (the classic leaping kalamatianós) Discphon LP
 "Hemariótikos" (a very slow leaping kalamatianós)
 "Rakambána" (a leaping kalamatianós) Alector LP
 "Samiótissa" (a syrtó-type kalamatiano without leaping)
 "Ameriki" (a leaping syrtós) Discphon LP
 "Nína Nai" (a fast syrtós)
 "Ámaxa" (a leaping kalamatianós)

Formation: A broken circle with hands joined at shoulder height, elbows bent and down. The hands should not be pushed forward into the circle, but should be comfortably back near the shoulders.

Characteristics: This dance is for both men and women. The men can be more energetic in their styling than the women. Depending on the music, it can be either a smooth or leaping dance.

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SYRTÓS-KALAMATIANÓS (continued)

BASIC STEP 2/4 or 7/8 time

The rhythm is broken down into patterns of slow, quick, quick, OR long, short, short. In the description I will describe the steps in terms of this pulsing rhythm, rather than in terms of the overall rhythm.

2/4: 7/8: Meas.

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|-----|-------|---|
| I | slow | Step sdwd to the R on the R ft. |
| | quick | Step behind the R ft on the L ft. |
| | quick | Step sdwd to the R on the R ft. |
| II | slow | Step across in front of the R ft on the L ft. |
| | quick | Step sdwd to the R on the R ft. |
| | quick | Step across in front of the R ft on the L ft. |
| III | slow | Step sdwd to the R on the R ft. |
| | quick | Step next to the R ft on the L ft. |
| | quick | Step in place on the R ft. |
| IV | slow | Step in place on the L ft. |
| | quick | Step in place on the R ft. |
| | quick | Step in place on the L ft. |

Abbreviations added to fit U.O.P. syllabus format.

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