

Zeybekiko

(Greece)

Zeybekiko (zeh-BEH-kee-koh), as its name suggests, is a dance of the Zeybecks, people of Greek origin who are centered around Smyran (Izmir) in western Turkey. This dance was originally a slow-moving, heavy-footed war dance. It has often been called the dance of the eagle, a symbol of power, because the dancers move and turn with their arms outstretched resembling a bird. It is a free form dance; the patterns change at the whim of the dancers. The following variations were taught at the 1962 and 1963 University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp by Oliver (Sonny) Newman.

MUSIC Record: Express 265 E (45) Zeybekiko; OL 24-133 "Picnic in Greece", S1, B5;
Vic 26-8323; Folkraft LP 3-B6 "Greek Folk Dances"

9/8 meter cts 1 to 9

FORMATION: Cpls spaced at random, ptrs about 5 ft apart, dance around a small imaginary circle. Arms are free to move at will, sway with body, move up and down, but mostly are extended sdwd like the wings of a bird.

As a SOLO, the dance is ALWAYS performed by a man. The circle is maintained with the ctr taking the place of the ptr.

STEPS and Draw: With toes pointed fwd, pull or drag slowly the ball of ft to supporting ft, no wt.

STYLING: Rock: Step on L ft across in front of R, bending knee, R remains in place (ct 1); shift wt back onto R (ct &). May be danced with opp ftwk.

Sway: With a preliminary bend of knees, ft apart, straighten on the beat shifting wt onto the stepping ft. Other ft remains in place.

MUSIC 9/8

PATTERN

Measures

INTRODUCTION Varies with record used.

I. BASIC (May be cued: 1, 2, &, 3, 4; 1, 2, &, 3, 4, 5)

1 Step on R to R (about 12 inches from L ft) (ct 1); draw ball of L to R ft (ct &); hold in place (ct 2); step fwd on L, bending knee (ct &); step back in place on R (ct 3); sway step sdwd L on L (ct 4); repeat exactly cts 1-4 (cts 5-8); sway step sdwd R on R (ct 9).

2 Repeat action of meas 1 with opp ftwk.

BASIC VARIATION I (Slow turn on second part)

1 Repeat action of Basic cts 1-7; step on L turning CCW (ct 8); step on R ft to complete the turn (ct 9).

2 Repeat action of Variation I with opp ftwk, turning CW on cts 8-9.

BASIC VARIATION II (Fast turn on first part)

1 Repeat Basic with a quick CCW turn on ct 4; then repeat action of Basic cts 5-9.

2 Repeat action of meas 1 (Variation II) with opp ftwk, and turn.

II. CIRCLE PARTNER (May be cued: 1, 2, &, 3, 4; 1, 2, &, 3, 4, 5)

Remain facing ptr throughout the following pattern. Ptrs circle each other and move bkwd into orig place.

1 Step fwd on R ft to begin a CCW circle around ptr (ct 1); step fwd on L (ct 2); step R beside L (as in a two-step) to begin CCW turn (ct &); step fwd on L continuing CCW pivot.

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(ct 3); step on R back of L, completing the turn to begin moving bkwd to place (ct 4); step on L diag bkwd L (ct 5); step bkwd on R (ct 6); step L beside R (ct &); sway step sdwd R on R (ct 7); sway step on L to L of orig place (ct 8); sway step on R to R of orig place (ct 9).

2 Repeat action of meas 1 (Fig II), with opp ftwk to circle ptr CW.

III. Rock

1 Step on R to R (ct 1); take 1 rock step (cts 2, &); sway step on L to L (ct 3); sway step on R to R (ct 4); repeat action of cts 1-4 with opp ftwk (cts 5-8); sway step on R to R (ct 9).

2 Repeat action of meas 1 (Fig III) with opp ftwk.

A CW turn may be made on cts 3-4 and a CCW turn on cts 7-8.

OPA!

