

Ai Giorgis from Kythira

(Kythira, Greece)

This couple dance version of Ai Giorgis is from the Ionian Sea island of Kythira in Greece. There is also a line dance version of Ai Giorgis. Kythira, along with the Ionian islands and some other areas, was never occupied by the Turks and was influenced by Venetians. Ai Giorgis is a dance unique to Kythira.

Pronunciation: AHYEE YOHR-gees ...KEE-thee-rah Translation: Saint George

Music: 2/4 meter *Timeless Sounds*, Track 11

Formation: The dance begins with two lines of dancers facing each other, about 6 feet apart. Each line is alternating M and W because the dance becomes a couple dance eventually. Front basket hold, L over R.

Steps & Styling: M lift knees higher than W.

Meas 2/4 meter

Pattern

2 meas INTRODUCTION. No action.

I. INTRODUCTORY STEPS FORWARD AND BACK

1 The two lines facing each other move fwd twd each other: Two steps (R, L) moving fwd (cts 1, 2).

2 Step R fwd (ct 1); lift L leg, knee bent in front, ft behind, upper body bends forward as in a bow (ct 2).

3 Two steps (L, R) moving bkwd (cts 1, 2).

4 Step L in place (ct 1); lift R leg, knee bent in front, ft behind (ct 2).

II. STA TRIA TO R

1 During this figure, dancers remain in 2 lines but by dancing the following steps they create a circle with the two lines (one line beside the other).

Two steps (R, L) moving fwd (cts 1, 2).

2 Step R fwd (ct 1); lift L leg, knee bent, in front (ct 2).

3 Step L in place (ct 1); lift R leg, knee bent, behind, bending upper body slightly fwd (ct 2).

4 Step R in place (ct 2); lift L, knee bent, in front (ct 1).

5 Step L in place (ct 1); lift R, knee bent, in front (ct 2).

III. LINES BREAK INTO COUPLES

1 Cpls separate from the line. Each cpl turns 90 degrees to the right and moves straight ahead as a cpl in a CCW circle, dancing Fig II.

Ai Giorgis — continued

IV. MORE ENERGETIC STEP

Repeat Fig II, but more energetically by skipping on all the steps and by bouncing during all the leg lifts.

V. PARTNERS CHANGE PLACES AND CHANGE BACK

During this figure the two people in the couple change places by having the person nearest the center of the circle (the person on the L, the W in the original configuration) turn CW one full turn in front of ptr during the first three skipping steps while keeping hands low and without releasing hands. The person who is NOT turning should help the one who is turning by dancing almost in place during these three skipping steps, thus allowing the person who is turning to pass in front. The figure is danced 4 times, changing places on the first and third repetition.

End the dance with 2 steps (R, L) in place.

Presented by Lilian Vlandi