

GRČKOTO (G'RCH-koh-toh)

SOURCE: The name, which means "the Greek dance," is the name by which a version of this is referred to in the Slavic village of Peštani on Lake Ohrid. I don't really know what it is called by Tosk Albanians in the Lake Prespa region. It is, in essence, a two measure variant on the *Syrtos* and *Kalamatiano*, a sort of *Pogonisios*.

RECORD: Any good recording of a *Kalamatiano*.







FORMATION: A line or open circle of dancers with leader on the right. Hands are joined and held up and somewhat forward (between chest and shoulder-height.)

METER: 7/8 =   or  

DANCER'S BEATS: 1 2 3 1 and 2 3







DESCRIPTION:

Basic Pattern

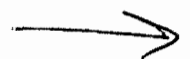
- I.  1. Face a bit right of center. Step onto R (with flex of knee) diagonally forward and to the right.
 2. Step onto ball of L behind and to the of R.
 3. Step onto R (with flex of knee) a bit to the right of its previous position.
- II.  1. Step onto L (with flex of knee) diagonally forward and across in front of the R to the right.
 2. Step back onto the ball of R.
 3. Step onto L (with flex of knee) a bit to the right of its previous position.

Variations:









A. Preparatory lift: The first step in each measure is frequently performed with a slight preparatory lift on the weight bearing foot prior to the indicated step. This means that the 3 counts of the first dancer's beat are broken up into a single count (on which the lift is performed) and the remaining 2 counts (denoted by "and") on which the step is taken.

- I  1. Face a bit right of center. Weight is on the L. Do a slight preparatory lift on the L.
 &. Step onto R (with flex of knee) diagonally forward and to the right.
 2.-3. As in measure I above.
- II  1. Face a bit right of center. Weight is on the R. Do a slight preparatory lift on the R.
 &. Step onto L (with flex of knee) diagonally forward and across in front of the R to the right.
 2.-3. As in measure I above.

B. Change of direction: At the leader's discretion, he/she may dance a few measures in place while turning to face left of center and then begins moving to the left. The footwork is still essentially the same, but the lateral movement described above is all to the left. (Movement to the left is generally smaller than it was to the right and depends on the rest of the line seeing this change in direction and adjusting to it.) While moving to the left, it is as if measure II (with appropriate changes in direction) were the leading measure:



GRČKOTO, cont.

- II  1. Face a bit left of center. Weight is on the R. Do a slight preparatory lift on the R.
  &. Step onto L (with flex of knee) diagonally forward and to the left.
  2. Step back onto the ball of R behind and slightly to the left of L.
  3. Step onto L (with flex of knee) a bit to the left of its previous position.
- I  1. Face a bit left of center. Weight is on the L. Do a slight preparatory lift on the L.
  &. Step onto R (with flex of knee) diagonally forward and across in front of L to the left.
  2. Step onto ball of L behind and to the right of R.
  3. Step onto R (with flex of knee) a bit to the right of its previous position.
- C. **"Double" leader and change of leadership.** On occasion, in the course of the dance, the leader may switch places with the second dancer. The leader may also move to a position behind the second dancer so that the two are dancing in parallel. In order to do this, the lead dancer moves the right hand of that second dancer from his/her own left hand to the right hand. At the same time, the lead dancer moves his/her own left hand to the back of the second dancer's left or right shoulder. The net result is that the two dancers are dancing as one, the leader parallel to, yet behind, the second dancer, their joined right hands extended forward.