

KARSILAMÁS (ANTIKRYSTÓS)

(Greece)

Source: This is a dance which is done in Macedonia and is also done in the seaport taverns. It is a cpl dance and the name means "face to face" and describes the starting pos of the dance. It is described in these two books:

Greek Folk Dances, M. Vouras and R. Holden,
(New Jersey, 1965)

Folk Dances of the Greeks, T. and E. Petrides,
(New York, 1961)



Music: 9/8 time. Any good Karsilamás can be used. Some of the popular tunes are:

"Óti Kanó Tís Axízei" Bring on the Bouzoukee, Nina LP
"Marinella"
"Rampi-Rampi"
"Apópse Ola Einai Yiá Séna"

Formation: Man and Woman facing each other. The arms can be stretched out at shoulder height; the women can have their hands on their hips. The men can have one arm out and one hand behind his back. Both man and woman can have one hand on hip and one hand holding a handkerchief. The women can hold a handkerchief with one hand on opp corners, holding the handkerchief in front of them.

Characteristics: This is a flirtatious dance. The steps are small and smooth. You should not be too far from your ptr.

The rhythm is 9/8 and is broken down into four cts: quick, quick, quick, slow, OR short, short, short, long. I will describe the steps in terms of the four cts.

9/8 +  or 

Meas. 9/8 rhythm

Basic Step - Right

I	quick	Step sdwd to the R on the R ft.
	quick	Step across in front of the R ft on the L ft.
	quick	Step sdwd to the R on the R ft.
	slow	Hop twice on the R ft, swinging the L ft in front of R.

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Basic Step - Left

- | | | |
|----|-------|---|
| II | quick | Step sdwd to the L on the L ft. |
| | quick | Step across in front of the L ft on the R ft. |
| | quick | Step sdwd to the L on the L ft. |
| | slow | Hop twice on the L ft, swinging the R ft in front of L. |

The Basic Step can also be done fwd or bkwd. It is not necessary to only dance one meas. fwd and one meas. bkwd. When dancing fwd or bkwd, you may dance as many meas. in either direction as you feel like dancing.

The Karsilamás is an improvisational dance and so there should not be any choreography. Each cpl dances the steps and the variations as their mood tells them. I will, therefore, describe some of the most common variations and leave it to the dancers to do them as the Greeks do them: improvisationally.

VARIATION (TURN)

Do the Basic Step to the R, turning to the R as you step R, L, R, ending with the swinging of the L ft across the R. (You should end facing your ptr.) The turn can then be done moving to the L.

VARIATION (FORWARD AND BACK)

Do one Basic Step fwd twd your ptr, and then one Basic Step bkwd away from your ptr. If you wish you may do two Basic Steps fwd and bkwd.

VARIATION (CROSS OVER AND BACK)

Do two Basic Steps fwd, passing R shoulders with your ptr, and then do two Basic Steps bkwd, again passing R shoulders. (If you wish, you may make a "do sa do" out of this step and return by passing L shoulders.)

VARIATION (MEN SQUAT)

M do the Basic Step as described, only on the slow ct, squat into a deep knee bend, knees together.

VARIATION (MEN CHASE WOMEN)

W dc the step bkwd several times, while the M do the step fwd, following their ptrs.

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VARIATION (MEN SLAP FOOT)

M do the Basic Step as described above, but instead of swinging L leg across in front of R ft, lift L ft and slap it on the outside with the L hand. When you do the step to the L, lift R ft and slap it with the R hand.

Since this dance is improvisational, there are many more variations that may be done. There is no floor pattern for cpls to follow: that is, cpls should not be in a circle or contra formation. Also, all cpls should be dancing freely -- it is not necessary that one cpl be doing the same steps as another. Ideally, everyone should be dancing their own steps without reference to other cpls on the floor. The important thing is to dance with your ptr in close communication so that you can together improvise within the framework of the dance. And this is a flirtatious love dance.....

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

Presented by John Pappas