

Koftó Syrtos or Koftós

(Greece)

Koftó syrto ("koff-TOH sir-TOH") which means "cut-off syrto" is a peculiar form of a Kalamatianos-like syrto in which the orchestra plays a syrto melody with abrupt, "cut-off" endings, usually every 8 measures, when the dancers also stop, or "freeze" in a certain position. I have seen many variations of this in Greece. Here I present a version in which the dancers freeze, alternately, in two different positions, when the music stops... and keep dancing when there is no stop in the music!

MUSIC: "Koftós" on "Greek Dances" (Nevofoon LP-15021).

FORMATION: Long line, leader on R. High handhold ("W"), with some bouncing of the hands.

STYLE: Often bouncy.

METER: 2/4

PATTERN

Meas

Basic step: a bouncy "Kalamatianos syrto"

- 1 Facing ctr and moving R: Hop on L ft (1), step on R ft to R (&), step on L ft behind R (2), step on R ft to R (&).
- 2 Turning to face diag R and moving R: Hop on R ft (1), step on L ft crossed in front of R (&), step on R ft to R (2), step on L ft crossed in front of R (&).
- 3 Dancing in place: Hop on L ft (1), step on R ft to R (&), step on L ft crossed in front of R (2), step on R ft in place behind L (&).
- 4 Dancing in place: Hop on R ft (1), step on L ft to L (&), step on R ft behind L (2), step on L ft crossed in front of R (&).
- 5-7 Repeat meas 1-3.
- 8 Stop abruptly on ct 1: Jump onto L ft, place L heel on floor in front (twd ctr) and raise arms high ("U"), while shouting "hey!." Hold (freeze) in this position until the music begins again.
- 8 (alt.) Every other (second) time: Stop abruptly by turning slightly L of ctr, stepping on L ft slightly L of ctr, knees bent, and clapping hands in front of chest. Hold this position until the music begins again.
- 8(alt.) When the music does not stop: Repeat meas 4.

The sequence on this recording is:

hands high (intro); clap; do not stop; do not stop;
hands high; clap; hands high; do not stop;
clap; hands high; clap; do not stop; hands high

*Dance description by Lee Otterholt
Presented by Lee Otterholt at the Laguna Folkdancers Festival 2005*