

Pentozali

(Greece, Crete)

Pentozali, according to Yvonne Hunt and Ted Petrides, means five steps, and comes from the Greek word *pente*, meaning five, and *zale* a term in the Cretan dialect meaning dance step - presumably derived from the Greek word *ballo*. This is contrary to another view that the derivation of *zalo* is *zalizo*—to become dizzy. There are also different approaches as to whether the dance begins with the right foot or left. I have selected the left-foot lead since that is what I am most used to doing. Pentozali is a fast-paced energetic dance that often follows the slower paced Siganos. The leader performs variations while the other dancers in the line maintain the basic steps. It is for performance purposes that all dancers do identical steps and variations. In the village setting, the leader's position is one of honor and he/she alone does variations. The leader responds to the music and as it builds in speed, the leader dances his/her more intricate, optional and personal variations. Different teachers have taught Pentozali over the years at the University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp and it is part of the basic Cretan repertoire.

Pronunciation: pen-toh-ZAH-lee

Record: Society for Dissemination of National Music #114, Side A/3 2/4 meter
Greece is...Folk Melodies from Crete, EMI 14C 054- 70165, Side B/2

Formation: Line of dancers in shoulder hold position, leader on the right.

Styling: Proud and danced with straight backs and upright posture and light springy steps. The dance generally starts more calmly and as the music builds in speed, the dancer's steps and energy levels increase. Men's movements are larger than women's.

Meas

Pattern

I. STEP SWINGS

- 1 Facing ctr, step right on R ft (ct 1); swing L ft in front of R (with optional hop of R ft) (ct 2).
- 2 Step fwd on L ft (ct 1); hop of L ft with bent R knee (ct 2).
- 3 Step or leap back on R ft while sharply bringing straight L leg across and in front of R (ct 1); step on L ft to L (ct 2); step on R ft across and in front of L ft (ct &).
- 4 Step on L in place (ct 1); step on R ft to R (ct 2); step on L ft across and in front of R (ct &).

Repeat dance from beginning.

Optional variation: On measure 2, ct 1, step to L on L ft (ct 1).

Dance notes by Suzanne Rocca-Butler
Presented by Suzanne Rocca-Butler