

## SERRA

The name stems from its origin of popularity which is a river of Pontus, called the Serra. Two men break from the circle and dance a "Mahera"—mock combat with swords—in the center as the circle continues to dance around them. It is for this reason the dance is also a "Pyrrhiko" (war-dance). In the past the dance ended with wounding of the adversary and was sometimes used to settle a grudge. When performed properly, the dancer's feet move so quickly that they appear to skim across the ground.

*Characteristics:* A very wild and exhilarating dance, building up speed quickly. It calls for all the vitality the dancer can muster and is, therefore, quick to sap his strength, for the action is continuous. The hands and arms tremble when held above the head as a man will do when shaking fists in a show of strength before committing an act of violence or when he is enraged. The weight of the body is predominantly on the heels when dancing upright, beating out a staccato of three rapid beats.

*Formation:* Open circle moving counter-clockwise. Hands clasped and held down at sides. As dance picks up speed, hands are raised to shoulder level and, shortly after, are raised above the head so that from shoulder to handclasp to shoulder of adjoining dancer, it would show the outline of an inverted V.

*Time:* 5/16

*Steps:*

The first pattern is a style variation of the Tik.

I 1, 2 Side r.

3, 4, 5 Step l. behind r.

II 1, 2 Side r., together l.

see  
erro  
aft  
gloss

- 3, 4, 5 Step in place r. with a very slight bend of r. knee, lifting l. foot about ankle-high and slightly backward.
- III 1, 2 Side l. to the left, together r.  
3, 4, 5 Step in place l. with a very slight bend of l. knee, lifting r. foot about ankle-high and slightly backward.
- IV 1, 2 } Repeat Step #II.  
3, 4, 5 }
- V 1, 2 Step l. forward, together r.  
3, 4, 5 Step in place l. with a very slight bend of l. knee lifting r. foot about ankle-high and slightly backward.

### *Variation for Step #I*

- 1, 2 Straddle jump (i.e. with feet apart)  
3, 4, 5 Jump, crossing l. behind r.

There is a gradual movement to the right; the dancers move in and then out.

- 1, 2 } Repeat Step V.  
3, 4, 5 }
- 1, 2 } Repeat Step II taking r. forward.  
3, 4, 5 }
- 1, 2 } Repeat Step V.  
3, 4, 5 }
- 1, 2 } Repeat Step II taking r. backward.  
3, 4, 5 }
- 1, 2 } Repeat Step V taking l. backward.  
3, 4, 5 }
- 1, 2 } Repeat Step II taking r. backward.  
3, 4, 5 }

## FOLK DANCES OF THE GREEKS

### ERRATA

*P. 36, from "Time:" to the bottom of p. 37 should read:*

*Time: 7/16*

*Steps:*

- |     |         |  |
|-----|---------|--|
| I   | 1,2,3,4 | Side r.  |
|     | 5,6,7   | Step l. behind r.  |
| II  | 1,2,3,4 | Side r., together l.   |
|     | 5,6,7   | Step in place r. with a very slight bend of r. knee,<br>lifting l. foot about ankle-high and slightly back-<br>ward. |
| III | 1,2,3,4 | Side l. to the left, together r.   |
|     | 5,6,7   | Step in place l. with a very slight bend of l. knee,<br>lifting r. foot about ankle-high and slightly back-<br>ward. |
| IV  | 1,2,3,4 | } Repeat Step #II.   |
|     | 5,6,7   |  |
| V   | 1,2,3,4 | Step l. forward, together r.   |
|     | 5,6,7   | Step in place l. with a very slight bend of l. knee,<br>lifting r. foot about ankle-high and slightly back-<br>ward. |

*Variation for Step #1*

- 1,2,3,4 Straddle jump (i.e., with feet apart).  
5,6,7 Jump, crossing l. behind r.

*Variation of the Dance*

There is a gradual movement to the right; the dancers move in and then out.

1,2,3,4 }  
5,6,7 } Repeat Step V.

1,2,3,4 }  
5,6,7 } Repeat Step II, taking r. forward.

1,2,3,4 }  
5,6,7 } Repeat Step V.

1,2,3,4 }  
5,6,7 } Repeat Step II, taking r. backward.

1,2,3,4 }  
5,6,7 } Repeat Step V, taking l. backward.

1,2,3,4 }  
5,6,7 } Repeat Step II, taking r. backward.

*P. 38, steps for the variation should read:*

To right

- I   1,2,3,4   Step r.  
     5,6,7   Small hop on r., raising l. foot about calf height.
- II   1,2,3,4   Step l.  
     5,6,7   Small hop on l., raising r. foot about calf height.
- III   1,2,3,4   }  
     5,6,7   }   Repeat I and pivot to left.

To left

- IV   1,2,3,4   }  
     5,6,7   }   Repeat II.
- V   1,2,3,4   }  
     5,6,7   }   Repeat I.
- VI   1,2,3,4   }  
     5,6,7   }   Repeat II and pivot to right.

To right



For the mock combat, the dancers move about with small running steps; quick, quick, slow. The dancers generally move towards each other, clash and withdraw. The clashes consist of one or a series of strikes upon one another's swords. Because of the primitive nature, the dancer is free to many movements, circling each other, squats, leaps, turns, etc.

### *Variation Used in the Dance*

At the end of Step V, the dancers turn to right, facing line of direction and crouching low (Indian-fashion) with hands held low, V handhold, about knee high; do a series of about three step-hops and on the last, turn left and do three more step-hops against the line of direction, etc.

To right

- I    1, 2    Step r.  
      3, 4, 5    Small hop on r., raising l. foot about calf height.
- II    1, 2    Step l.  
      3, 4, 5    Small hop on l., raising r. foot about calf height.
- III   1, 2    }  
      3, 4, 5   }    Repeat I and pivot to left.

To left

- IV    1, 2    }  
      3, 4, 5   }    Repeat II.
- V     1, 2    }  
      3, 4, 5   }    Repeat I.
- VI    1, 2    }  
      3, 4, 5   }    Repeat II and pivot to right.

To right

Repeat movement to right and turn towards center and finish with Step V the same step which started the series.