

Siriysko horo (Syrian)

This dance was introduced by Yulian Yordanov at workshops in both northern and southern California in the spring of 2010 (San Diego and Mendocino). Yulian's notes indicated he observed it at a Bulgarian community gathering in Chicago. He later found out that the dance originated in Syria. The name "Siriysko Horo" simply means "Syrian Dance" in Bulgarian. Loui Tucker taught the dance at Camp Hess Kramer in October of 2010; Alan Rothchild presented it at the President's Ball in December of 2010.

This dance can be done to many different pieces of music. The music Yulian chose to use features the vocals of the Libyan-born musician and singer Hamid El-Shaeri who is credited with founding the Egyptian alternative music genre called "Jeel." Another interesting note: the Israeli dance community also has a dance to the same piece of music, although it uses a different arrangement of the melodic structure.

Pronunciation: See-ree-YEES-koh HOH-roh

Music: 2/4 meter CDs: *Dance with Yuliyana Vol. 3; Camp Hess Kramer 2010 CD; President's Ball 2010 CD*

Formation: Open circle of dancers with arms in "V" pos.

Steps & Styling: Energetic and upbeat. Dancers in the line are close to one another and facing center throughout the dance. Shoulder movements and shimmies are incorporated.

Meas 2/4 meter Pattern

INTRODUCTION The dance can begin anywhere the leader decides to start.

I. GRAPEVINE AND CROSS-STEPS

- 1 Moving to R, step R to R (ct 1); step L behind R (ct 2).
- 2 Step R to R (ct 1); step L crossing in front of R (ct 2).
- 3 Low hop on L while bringing the R foot from behind to in front of L (ct 1); step on R in front of L (ct 2).
- 4 Moving L, step L to L (ct 1); step on R in front of L (ct 2). During these steps there is a slight rocking movement onto the stepping leg, with a heaviness on the crossing R foot. However, this is not a stamp.
- 5-6 Repeat meas 4 twice.

II. DANCING IN PLACE

- 1 Small step L to L (ct 1); step R in place (ct 2).
- 2 Step on L next to R (ct 1); step R in place (ct 2).
- 3 Step L fwd (ct 1); step R in place (ct 2).
- 4 Repeat meas 2.

5 Repeat meas 1.

6 Step L next to R (ct 1); hold (ct 2).

Note: During this section, the shoulders move up and down: shoulders can rise and fall independently and alternating, or shoulders can rise and fall together as the steps are taken, at the whim of the dancer.

III. LEAPS AND CROSSES

1 Leap R and slightly bkwd on R while kicking L diagonally fwd and L (ct 1); step L in its original pos before the kick (ct 2).

2 Step R in front of L while lifting L behind slightly (ct 1); leap L and slightly bkwd on L while kicking R diagonally fwd and R (ct 2).

3 Step R in its original pos before the kick (ct 1); step L in front of R (ct 2).

4 Repeat meas 1.

IV. HEEL TOUCH IN PLACE

1 Bending slightly at the waist, touch R heel fwd (ct 1); step R in place (ct 2).

2 Remaining bent slight at the waist, touch L heel fwd (ct 1); step L in place (ct 2).

3-4 Repeat meas 1-2.

Note: The shoulders should shimmy continuously during the section.

Sequence: The dance as presented above is repeated as long as the music plays.