

# SOULTANA

(pronounced Sul-Ta-nah)

By Athan Karras

**SOURCE:** It is from the north eastern part of Greece Thrace, namely, the area of Soufli, as the song tells of Soultana (the Sultan's wife) from Soufli. The dance as such and its form is referred to as Stavrotos, (crossed hands) and also as PASHALIA, meaning that it is an Easter dance, observed at spring festival in Thrace and danced by the PANHELLENIC Folk Dance Ensemble.

**FORMATION:** An open circle with arms stretched out crossing over your neighbor's arms as in a basket hold. Leader may tuck the person next to him, his arm under his left arm tightly so that he may have one hand free to lead dance and execute more variations.

**RECORDING:** CHORODRAMA 4509, Panhellenion Folk Ensemble recording.

MUSIC 2/4

PATTERN

Measure THE FIRST IS SLOW. DANCERS SHOULD SING THE SONG

- 1 In R LOD step with R ft to R (count 1) cross L ft and step in front of R ft (count 2)
- 2 Repeat the same as in Measure No. 1 (counts 3-4)
- 3 Step R ft to R (count 5)  
bring L ft in front of R ft, and ladies touch toe – Men raise L leg, with bent knee (count 6)

FIB (B) MUSIC IS FASTER—INSTRUMENTAL PART

- 1 Syncopating the steps and stepping in RLOD on the balls of your feet stepping R, LR (counts 1-2)
- 2 Syncopating the steps and stepping in RLOD on the balls of your feet stepping L, R, L (counts 3-4)
- 3 Jumping to the Rand somewhat center with both feet (counts 1-2) stamping L ft and raising L ft in air as simultaneously hopping in place on R ft
- 4 Jumping bwds on L, R, L, quickly and bringing feet together (counts 1- )

REPEAT SAME TO FAST MUSIC AND RETURN AGAIN TO SLOW PART WHEN VOCAL.