

SYRTO, TURNING
(Greece)

Syrto, Turning is a Greek line dance. This dance has a great deal more twisting motion than ordinary syrto and can be thought of as swinging the shoulders from side to side. This syrto takes 8 meas of music to complete a dance phrase instead of 4 meas as the more usual syrto takes. This is one of the few perfectly natural dances that I am familiar with. The costume originally worn by the women who did this dance included large polished silver ornaments on their wide belts. The twisting, as the dance was being done, reflected the sun much in the same way that revolving chandeliers in ballrooms reflect light. Turns are an outgrowth of the twisting and although they are not a basic part of the dance, they do make a lovely variation and should be executed only at the leader's indication.

Record: "Picnic in Greece" OL 24-13. Use Nesiotiko Syrto slowed.
Festival F 3511

Music: Specific music for this dance is unavailable as it dropped from existence long before records were invented and only recently has been discovered through research by Ted Petridis. However, any nice melodic free flowing syrto works nicely. Rhythm is most easily counted 1, 2, & (S, Q, Q).

Formation: Open circle. Hands at shoulder level.

| <u>Measures</u> | <u>Pattern</u> |
|-----------------|----------------|
| (2/4) | |

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| | I. |
| 1 | Step R to R (let body swing L) (ct 1), cross L behind R (body still swinging L) (ct 2), step R to R (body now swinging to R) (ct &). |

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| 2 | Cross L in front of R (body still to R) (ct 1), step R to R (body swinging back to L) (ct 2), cross L behind R (body still to L) (ct &). |
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Note: To this point the dance is merely a grapevine in a slow, quick, quick rhythm.

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| 3 | (R cross-over). Step R to R (body swinging to R) (ct 1), Cross L in front of R (leave R hovering over last pos) (ct 2), step R into last pos (ct &). |
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| 4 | (L cross-over). Step L to L (body swing to L) (ct 1), cross R in front of L (leave L hovering over last pos) (ct 2), step L into last pos (ct &). |
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Note: To this point the dance is the usual syrto with the exception of an extra twist on meas 2. From here through meas 8 the steps are reversed exactly although the dance continues to move to the R.

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| 5 | Step R to R (body twisting to R) (ct 1), cross L in front of R (body still to R) (ct 2), step R to R (body twisting to L) (ct &). |
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continued...

SYRTO, TURNING (CONT.)

| <u>Measures</u> | <u>Pattern</u> |
|-----------------|---|
| 6 | Cross L behind R (body still to L) (ct 1), step R to R (body twisting to R) (ct 2), cross L in front of R (body still to R) (ct &). |
| 7 | (R cross-over). Step R to R (body twisting to L) (ct 1), cross L behind R (leave R hovering over last pos) (ct 2), step R into last pos (ct &). |
| 8 | (L cross-over). Step L to L (body twisting to R) (ct 1), cross R behind L (leave L hovering over last pos) (ct 2), step L into last pos (ct &). Repeat phrase I to end of music. |
| | <u>Variation:</u> On meas 2 and 6, ct 1, the L ft is moving into a pos in front and in back of the R ft, respectively. Let the L ft initiate a double turn in the direction to which it is moving, like this: |
| | (Insert this in place of original meas 2) |
| 2 | Step L in front of R (drop hand hold and begin turning CW (ct 1), step R completing turn (you are now facing ctr of circle) (ct 2), step L in front of R beg second turn (ct &) |
| 3 | Step R completing turn. This step is also the first step of the R cross-over. Finish meas 4 and 5 as in original step resuming hand hold on meas 4. |
| | (Insert this in place of original meas 6) |
| 6 | Step L behind R (drop hand hold and begin turning CCW)(ct 1), step R completing turn (ct 2), step L behind R starting second turn (ct &). |
| 7 | Step R to R completing turn, which is also the first step of the R cross-over. Finish meas 7 and 8 as usual, resuming hand hold on meas 8. |

Presented by: Sonny Newman