

Presented by Dave Rosenberg

## SYRTO

Greek

**RECORD:** There are many syrto records, just as there are many records for the mambo or foxtrot. A good record, with an easy-to-recognize beat, is Victor 25-8152, I Lambro Syrto. It may be fun to shop for your own record and become familiar with your local vendors of Greek products (and at the same time sample some feta cheese, baklava, and garlic olives).

**FORMATION:** Dancers in a line, joined hands held shoulder height, elbows bent.

## Pattern

(The rhythm throughout the syrto is similar to that of a tango: slow, fast fast. The music at first sounds so unusual that you may have difficulty in catching the beat, but practice will help you find the underlying slow, quick, quick rhythm.)

Step to right with right foot (slow); step on left foot behind right foot (fast); step on right foot to right side (fast). (Twist the hips a bit to execute these three steps smoothly.)

With a little skip on right foot (like a grace note), come down on left foot (right foot also has weight on it) (slow); then take two small steps moving to the right with right foot, then left foot (fast, fast). Turn slightly to the right for these steps.

Facing center, step on right foot in place (slow); then point left foot forward in front of right foot (fast), and hold (with slight flex of right knee).

Step on left foot in place next to right foot (slow); then point right foot forward in front of left (fast), and hold (with slight flex of left knee).

A variation which is popular with many Greek-Americans and which fits the slow, fast fast rhythm even better than the simplified version above, is as follows: (the variation occurs on paragraphs 3 and 4 above)

Facing center, step on right foot in place (slow); step on left foot in front of right foot (fast); step on right foot in place (fast). (This can also be done putting the left foot behind the right.)

Step on left foot to left side (slow); step on right foot in front (or behind) left foot (fast); step on left foot in place (fast).

(Each dancer can vary these last steps, in accordance with the way the music makes him feel.)