

SYRTOS

SYRTÓS - KALAMATIÁNÓS (Greece)

Source: The Syrtós is a panhellenic dance. Syrtós means dragging dance, so it more properly applies to dances with a smoother flowing movement. The Kalamatianós has the same basic step as the Syrtós, but it is often bouncy and leaping in character. When a dance is leaping, it is called a Pithichtós, or leaping dance. The Syrtós can also be a Pithichtós in styling. Thus, one can see that the nomenclature is somewhat confusing. There is one more criterion for describing the dances: the Syrtós is in 2/4 time, the Kalamatianós is in 7/8 time. Actually, then it is the music which decides what the dance is called. The music also tells the dancer how to dance: some music demands smooth, dragging steps, other music demands high leaping steps. The dance is described in these three books:

Greek Folk Dances, M. Vouras and R. Holden (New Jersey, 1965).

Elliniki Hori, V. Papahristos (Athens, 1960).

Folk Dances of the Greeks, T. and E. Petrides (New York, 1961).

Pronunciation: seer-TOHS, kah-lah-mah-tee-ah-NOHS

Music: The music is in either 2/4 or 7/8 time. The dance can be done to any number of tunes. Like the Tsamikos, there are thousands of tunes to choose from, so I will just list a few.

"Horós Kalamatianós" (the classic leaping kalamatianós), Discphon LP

"Hermapiotikos" (a very slow leaping kalamatianós)

"Rakambána" (a leaping kalamatianós) Alektor LP

"Samiótissa" (a syrtó-type kalamatianós without leaping)

"Ameriki" (a leaping syrtós) Discphon LP

"Nína Nái" (a fast syrtós)

"Ámaxz" (a leaping kalamatianós)

Formation: A broken circle with hands joined at shldr height, elbows bent and down. The hands should not be pushed fwd into the circle, but should be comfortably back near the sldrs.

Characteristics: This dance is for both M and W. The M can be more energetic in their styling than the W. Depending on the music, it can be either a smooth or leaping dance.

Cont

SYRTÓS - KALAMATIANÓS (continued)

BASIC STEP: 2/4 or 7/8 time

The rhythm is broken down into patterns of slow, quick, quick OR, long, short, short. In the description I will describe the steps in terms of this pulsing rhythm, rather than in terms of overall rhythm.

2/4: ♩ ♪ ♪

7/8: ♩ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ or ♩ ♪ ♪ ♪

Neas

- | | | |
|-----|------------------------|--|
| I | slow
quick
quick | Step sdwd to R on R.
Step behind the R on L.
Step sdwd to R on R. |
| II | slow
quick
quick | Step across in front of R on L.
Step sdwd to R on R.
Step across in front of R on L. |
| III | slow
quick
quick | Step sdwd to R on R.
Step next to R on L.
Step in place on R. |
| IV | slow
quick
quick | Step in place on L.
Step in place on R.
Step in place on L. |



Syrtós