

Syrtos Serifos

(Serifos, Cyclades)

The Syrtos is the most common dance form in the general Aegean cultural area. This is especially true for the Cycladic group of islands. Both the Syrtos and the couple form of Ballos dance are performed with the Aegean style two-step: an elongation in time (and distance) of the second step and a "catch up" or shortening of the third step which accounts for its rhythmic syncopation; and a tendency to push off from the ankles immediately after taking weight on the first and third steps, which accounts for its sense of lilt. This specific version of the Syrtos from the island of Serifos was learned from Kaiti Karekla-Frangedaki.

Pronunciation:

Cassette: Greek Dances 1992 #2

Rhythm: 8/8 meter (3/8, 3/8, 2/8 counted as 1, 2, 3 or S, S, Q)

Formation: Open circle of M and W (traditionally there were 5 total per dance circle M W M W M).

Meas Pattern

INTRODUCTION

OPEN CIRCLE

- 1 Facing just slightly L of ctr, step on R to R and slightly back in LOD (ct 1); step on L bkwd in LOD (ct 2); step on R bkwd in LOD (ct 3).
- 2 Step L on bkwd in LOD (ct 1); pivot on L to face slightly R of ctr preparing R to step (ct &); step on R in LOD (ct 2); step on L in LOD or close step L next to R (ct 3).
- 3-16 Repeat meas 1-2 seven times.

COUPLES

TRANSITION: On ct & of meas 2 above, pivot to face ctr so cts 2 and 3 are performed in twd ctr of circle, arms swinging down and slightly back to prepare to swing up.

- 1 Step on R in LOD (ct 1); step on L in LOD (ct 2); step on R near L (ct 3).
- 2 Step on L in LOD (ct 1); step on R in LOD (ct 2); step on L near R (ct 3).
- 3-16 Repeat meas 1-2 seven times.

Note: All steps are performed in the characteristic Aegean style 'lilt,' obtained by a slight pushing up from the ankles on the & ct between cts 1 and 2, and also while executing ct 3 as wt shifts from the previous ft.

PATTERN: Using ftwk above, move as indicated.

- 1-2 Formation of cpls, M turns W under his upraised L arm (with or without switching W's hand) so she is positioned on the outside on 2nd meas; after an initial shldr-to-shldr roll of 1st meas, face in twd ctr of circle.
- 3-6 Cpl dances around own circle.
- 7-8 Cpl dances into file form with others.
- 9-12 Cpl dances file fwd in LOD.
- 13-15 M dances in place, W spins around in place under M's upraised L arm.
- 16 W dances out and joins 2nd M to reform open circle.

Presented by Joe Kaloyanides Graziosi