

SYRTOS SILIVRIANOS

(Greek Islands)

The spelling of the name of this dance varies, due to troubles in transliterating it from the Greek. You may see it spelled Sylibrian or Silyvrian, Selibrian, etc., but in any case, it is pronounced seer-TOSS see-leev-ree-ah-NOSS, "Syrtos from Silivri (a town now in Turkey). In its native setting it often immediately precedes the couple dance "Ballos".

RECORD: Express SS-001-B "Syrtos Silivrianos"

FORMATION: Men and women in a line or circle. Often the line is made up of couples in preparation for the Ballos.

RHYTHM: The meter is 2/4 and the movements of the dance are all in a slow-quick-quick rhythm.

Meas. FIGURE I (Syrtos forward)
1-8 Facing directly counter-clockwise around the circle, take 8 of the following syrtos steps, alternating beginning foot:

- ct. 1 (slow): step fwd with Rft.
- ct. 2 (quick): step fwd with Lft.
- ct. 3 (quick): step fwd with Rft, closing up to Lft.

9-16 FIGURE II (Backward and forward; "zig-zag")
Turning to face L, take two of the above steps backwards, i.e., circle still moving CCW, then two in line of direction. Repeat all of this.

FIGURE III (Twist and cross)

Face directly toward center, and moving sideways to R:

- 17 Step R with Rft (ct. 1, slow); step Lft behind Rft still moving to R (ct. 2, quick), step R with Rft (ct. 3, quick).
- 18 Step Lft behind Rft (ct. 1, slow); step (really a light leap) R with Rft (ct. 2, quick); step Lft across in front of Rft (ct. 3, quick).

Repeat the above three more times for a total of four, before returning to Figure I again.

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