

# Vary Hasapiko

(Greece)

The Hasapika dances are a classification form of multiple variations of dances which are individualized with styling and regional characteristics. The basic form of the Hasapika dances had its origins during the Byzantium Empire with the “Butcher’s Guilds.” From these the music and dances spread like wildfire throughout the outlying areas of Southeastern Europe and the Near East. One such dance became the Vary Hasapiko, or “Argo” (“slow” in Greek). Its peculiar style grew out of the fishermen on the island of Salamis. It was known as “Koulouriotiko” (named from the village of Koulouri, Salamis). It is known by other names, such as “Nafiko” (Sailors) or Rebetiko. In the last fifty years, it has gained great popularity as a musical form and as a dance. Its woeful lyrics and soulful romanticism found deep expression in the cadenced and deliberate movements which identified its engaging style. Originally it was danced by men, and always in small groups, no more than five or six at best, all dancers carefully following the leader. Women did not participate in this dance originally, but with the emerging popularity, it was difficult to contain it within social barriers, or even ethnic boundaries. Its exploding success has also led many musicians and composers to write new tunes to this established style.

Pronunciation: vah-REE hah-SAH-pee-koh

CD: The Spirit of Greek Dance with Athan Karras AK2001 4/4 meter

Formation: Line of dancers arms in T-pos.

Styling: The Leader might signal in preparation to a change of step.

## Meas

## Pattern

### INTRODUCTION

Prior to starting with the Basic Step, dancers line up and familiarize themselves with the tempo of the musical composition, as in:

- 1 Facing ctr, step on R to R (cts 1-2); bring L to R, no wt (cts 3-4).
- 2 Step on L to L (cts 1-2); bring R to L (cts 3-4).
- 3 With ft together, open toes diag out (cts 1-2); open heels diag out (cts 3-4).
- 4 Close heels together (cts 1-2); close toes together (cts 3-4).

#### A. BASIC VARY HASAPIKO

- 1 Facing ctr and leaning body fwd, drop onto L to ctr, leaving the R behind (ct 1); tap R ft behind (ct 2); swing R ft through fwd (cts 3-4).
- 2 Circle R ft around and behind L (ct 1); step on R behind L (ct 2); bring L ft across behind R ft, very close to R heel (ct 3); step on L (ct 4).
- 3 Take large step on R to R (ct 1); step on L in front of R (ct 2); step on R in place (pas de bas) (ct 3); pause (ct 4).
- 4-12 Repeat meas 1-3 three times (4 total).

#### B. THREE-TWO-ONE

- 1 Moving in LOD, step on L across in front of R (ct 1); small step on R to R (ct 2); step on L across in front of R (ct 3); swing R across in front of L in preparation for moving in RLOD (ct 4).
- 2 Step on L to R (ct 1); step on R to R (ct 2); step on L to L (ct 3); step on R to L (ct 4).
- 3 Step on L across in front of R (ct 1); step on R across in front of L (ct 2); step on L across in front of R (ct 3); close R to L, no wt (ct 4).

## Vary Hasapiko—continued

Ba. JUMP AND LEAP

- 1-2 Repeat Introduction, meas 3-4.
- 3 Jump with ft apart and knees bent (cts 1-2); jump with ft together, straightening knees (cts 3-4).
- 4 Repeat meas 3.
- 5 Leap onto R (cts 1-2); leap onto L (cts 3-4).

C. MESA-EXO (grapevine)

- 1 Step on L across in front of R (cts 1); large step on R to R (ct 2); step on L across behind R (ct 3); step on R to R (ct 4).
- 2 Step on L across in front of R (cts 1-2); swing R across in front of L (cts 3-4).
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 5-6 Repeat meas 1-2.

Ca. PSEFTIKO (false step)

- 1 Step on R in front of L (cts 1-2); step on L in place (cts 3-4).
- 2 Step on R across behind L (cts 1-2); Step on L across behind R (cts 3-4).
- 3 Take large step on R to R (ct 1); step on L in front of R (ct 2); step on R in place (pas de bas) (ct 3); pause (ct 4).

D. PIDIMA (leaping step)

- 1 Facing ctr, leap onto L diag fwd to L (cts 1-2); leap onto R diag fwd to R (cts 3-4).
- 2 Leap onto L diag fwd to L (cts 1-2); hold (cts 3-4).
- 3 Step on R across behind L (cts 1-2); step on L across behind R (cts 3-4).
- 4 Take large step on R to R (ct 1); step on L in front of R (ct 2); step on R in place (pas de bas) (ct 3); pause (ct 4).

E. KLOTSIA (kick step)

- 1 Step directly fwd to ctr on L (ct 1); kick R ft fwd hitting R heel three times (cts 2-4).
- 2 Take large step fwd on R (cts 1-2); kneel (bent knees), body bent fwd (cts 3-4).
- 4 Rise up and take large step bkwd on L, leaning body bkwd (ct 1-2); kick R heel and step on R to R, bending knees and kneeling (cts 3-4).
- 5 Rise up and take large step bkwd on L, body leaning bkwd (cts 1-2); facing ctr, step on R ready to begin Basic step (cts 3-4).

The Basic Vary Hasapiko steps are the mainstay of the dance. Variations are introduced, but between each variation, always return to a few sequences of the Basic step.

Presented by Athan Karras