

VARIS HASAPIKOS

1974 SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY FOLK DANCE CONFERENCE

Presented by David Henry

VARIS HASAPIKOS

Greece

Unlike most Greek dances which are associated with the past, with village life and with the out-of-doors, the Varys Hasápihos is a dance of the 20th century, the cities and the tavernas of Greece. It and the bouzouki music to which it is danced, grew up in the tavernas and bars of Piraios, Athens, Salonica, Constantinople and Smyrna, and with the rebetiko or bohemian subculture which flourished in those places between the two world wars. Unlike other Greek dances which are communal by nature, the "slow" or "heavy" hasapikos (like the Zebekikos and the modern Tsámikos), is personal. It is typically danced by two or three close friends in line holding by the shoulders. The basic step is an irregular 3 measure form.

SOURCE: Greeks in Athens, Epiros, Macedonia, and New York, with whom I have danced, especially the Lykeionton Ellinidhon of Athens and of Drama, 1965-1974

MUSIC: 4/4 Any popular bouzouki tune of moderate tempo, especially Strose to Stromasou, Tathakria, Hasapiko 40, etc.

FORMATION: Short lines of 3 to 4 people, shoulder hold.

4/4

PATTERN

Meas

BASIC STEP:

- 1 Step on L ft fwd (ct 1) tap R toe near L ft (ct 2) brush R ft fwd (ct 3) pause (ct 4)
- 2 Step on R ft bwd (cts 1-2) step on L ft bwd (cts 3-4)
- 3 Step on R ft to R (ct 1) step on L ft across in front of R (ct 2) step on R ft bwd and hook L ft across R ankle (cts 3-4)

FIG I

Preparation:

- 1 Touch the ~~heel~~ heel, lift L ft (cts 1-2) Repeat cts 1-2 (cts 3-4)

The Step:

- 1 Step on L ft across in front of R (ct 1-2) step on R across in front of L (cts 3-4)
- 2 Step on L across in front of R (ct 1) step on R sideways to R (ct 2) step on L across in front of R (cts 3-4)
- 3 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk and direction
- 4 Step on R across in front of L (ct 1) take 2 more steps ,L,R, dropping handhold and turning out 1/2 to the L, then resume handhold (cts 2-4)

Repeat the Preparation and the Step ending the figure in original position.

Continued...

FIG II

- 1 Leap and hop on L ft fwd (cts 1-2) leap and hop on R bwd (cts 3-4)
- 2 Leap onto L ft fwd bending fwd from waist, raising R ft in back (ct 1) releasing R hand from neighbors shldr, tap the floor with knuckles (ct 2) tap the floor again with R hand (ct 3) step on R ft fwd (ct 4)
Go immediately into the Basic Step on ct 1 of the next meas

FIG III

Preparation:

- 1 Step on L ft fwd (cts 1-2) brush the R ft across the L ft in a low arc (cts 3-4)

The Step:

- 1 Step on R ft across in front of L (ct 1) step on L ft sideways to L (ct 2) step on R ft across in front of L (cts 3-4)
- 2 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk and direction
- 3 Step on R ft across in front of L (cts 1-2) step on L ft across in front of R (cts 3-4)
- 4 Step on R ft across in front of L (ct 1) step on L sideways to L releasing handhold (ct 2) step on R across in front of L, crouch, keeping back straight and pivot on the balls of both feet turning once around to the L; then taking wt on the L, rise and resume handhold (cts 3-4)
- 5 Step on R ft to R (ct 1) step on L across in front of R (ct 2) step on R bwd and hook L ft across R ankle (cts 3-4) :

FIG IV

- 1 Leap onto L ft fwd bending fwd from the waist (ct 1-2) leap onto R ft fwd to the R kicking L ft across in back of R, close to the ground (ct 3) leap onto L fwd to the L kicking R ft across in back of L close to the ground (ct 4)
- 2 Leap onto R ft fwd to the R, still bent fwd (ct 1) tap the L ft in back of or across behind the R ft (ct 2) leap onto L sideways to the L and tap as in ct 2 above (cts 3-4)
- 3 Leap onto R ft sideways to the R and tap as above (cts 1-2)
Go immediately into cts 1-2 of Basic Step, rising to stand as before (cts 3-4)

FIG V

Preparation: Standing on the R ft (as you will be at the end of the Basic Step and each Figure), close the L ft to R ft (ct 1) pause (ct 2)

The Step:

- 1 Jump fwd (cts 1-2) jump bwd (cts 3-4)
- 2 Leap onto the L ft in place kicking the R ft high in back (ct 1) hop on the L ft keeping the R ft high in back (ct 2) kick the R ft fwd and release handhold (ct 3) leap onto the

Varýs Hasárikos, Cont, Page 3

- R ft in place, kicking the L ft high in front, slapping the R hand up across the inside of the L ft in a glancing blow keeping the L hand extended at shldr ht to the L as if holding neighbor's shldr. (cts 3-4)
- 3 Step on L ft sideways to L (leaving R on floor) into stride pos (ct 1-2) leap and hop on L ft as in meas 2, cts 1-2 above (cts 3-4)
- 4 Repeat meas 2, cts 3-4 and Meas 3, cts 1-2 as above
- 5 Crouch twd the R (back straight but head lowered) with L knee near the floor and snap fingers (with hands extended to the R) on ct 1 (cts 1-2) reverse direction of meas 5, cts 1-2 (cts 3-4)
- 6 Repeat meas 5, cts 1-2; rise to orig pos resuming handhold (cts 1-2) go immediately into the Basic Step or another figure (cts 3-4)

NOTE: Each Greek or group of friends has "his" own set of figures (women are only dancing the Varýs Hasárikos in the last few years). The leader "tells" the other dancer or two which figure is coming next by slight directional pressure on his shldr. The figures I have described do not constitute a "dance" but are rather suggestions or possibilities which you might easily add to those which are already in your repertory. The style which I have adopted is that of the young Athenians I danced with some ten years ago. That is to say that it is neither the older, heavier, rebetiko style, nor the more modern lighter style which is characterized by high leg lifts.

Continued...

SEE ERRATA

62 Add the following figures:

Meas

FIG VI

1 Preparation: same as Fig III, meas 1.

The Step:

1 Step R over L (ct 1), step L to L side (ct 2), step L behind R (ct 3), step L to L side (ct 4).

2 Repeat meas 1.

3 Step R over L into squat pos, wt on R, L in place on floor (ct 1), rise taking wt on L (ct 2), step R to R (ct 3), step L over R (ct 4).

4 Step bwd on R (ct 1), hold (ct 2), repeat Basic Step, (ct 3-4).

FIG VII

1 Preparation: same as Fig III, meas 1.

The Step:

1 Step R over L (ct 1), step L to L (ct 2), step R over L (ct 3), step L to L (ct 4).

2 Repeat meas 1, except on ct 4 swing L in circular motion over R.

3 Step on L over R (ct 1), step R to R (ct 2), step L over R (ct 3), step R to R (ct 4).

4 Step L over R (ct 1), swing R to R with circular motion over L (ct 2), step R over L (ct 3) step L to L (ct 4).

5 Step R over L (ct 1), swing L as in meas 2, ct 4 (ct 2), step L over R (ct 3), step R over L (ct 4).

FIG VIII

1 Preparation: same as Fig V, meas 1.

The Step:

1 Jump into stride pos (ct 1), hold (ct 2), jump into squat pos keeping back straight with R over L, wt on both ft (ct 3), hold (ct 4).

2 Rise with wt on L and extend R diag to R (ct 1), hold (ct 2), squat as in meas 1, ct 3 with L in front of R except do not jump into squat (ct 3), hold (ct 4).

3 Repeat meas 2, ct 1-2 (cts 1-2), repeat meas 1, cts 3-4, except no jump (cts 3-4).

4 Repeat meas 2, cts 1-2 (cts 1-2), repeat meas 2, cts 3-4 (cts 3-4).

5 Rise on L, extend R (ct 1), hold (ct 2), step R over L (ct 3), step L to L (ct 4).

6 Step R behind L (ct 1), step L to L (ct 2), step R over L into squat pos, no jump (ct 3), rise with wt on L (ct 4).

7 Step R to R (ct 1), step L over R (ct 2), step R back into place (ct 3), hold (ct 4).