

# GAITANAKI RODOU

(Greece)

This dance from Rhodes, originally danced only by women, is now done in mixed groups. Gaitanaki (guy-tah-NAH-kee) refers to a kind of braiding. The vocal on record listed is a sad song about a young girl's lover. Dennis Boxell learned the dance in Greece and introduced it at the 1965 Folk Dance Camp, University of the Pacific, Stockton, California.

MUSIC: Record: Folkraft LP-6, Side A, Band 5

FORMATION: Closed circle of 12 to 15 persons, L arm over, R arm under, in front basket hold pos.

STEPS AND STYLING: Walk\*, Step-close\*. Ft are kept close to floor; steps are small and action is restrained in keeping with the sentiments of the lyrics. Note: No shushing!

\*Described in Volumes of Folk Dances from Near and Far, published by Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc., 1095 Market Street, San Francisco, California.

MUSIC 2/4

PATTERN

Measures

NO INTRODUCTION

I. LONG SEQUENCE

- 1-2 Face slightly to R, move fwd with 2 steps (one per meas) R, L (cts 1,2), (1,2).  
3 Step R to R side, face ctr (ct 1), close L to R and without touching floor or R ft, describe half circle outward (CCW) with L (ct 2), immediately preparing to step in RLOD.  
4-6 Face slightly to L, repeat action of meas 1-3 (Fig 1) but reverse direction and ftwork.

- 7 Face ctr and step R fwd twd ctr of circle (ct 1). L ft moves fwd, passes R, with outward (CCW) circling motion (ct 2).  
8 Step bwd on ball of L (ct 1), close R to L (ct 2). As this step is executed, raise R heel over L toe, retaining wt on ball of R ft.  
9 Cross L ft behind R, keep body erect with knees bent (sit down) (cts 1,2).  
10 Continue to face ctr, straighten knees and step swd R with R (ct 1), close L to R taking wt (ct 2).  
11 Step swd R on a slight diag (cts 1,2)  
12 Facing diag R, step L in LOD (cts 1,2).  
13-14 Repeat action of meas 1-12 (Fig 1).

II. SHORT SEQUENCE

- 1 Face ctr, step swd R (ct 1). Close L to R and without touching floor or R ft, describe half circle outward (CCW) with L (ct 2).  
2 Step swd L (ct 1), close R to L without touching floor or L ft (ct 2), pass R ft fwd along side of L (preparing for next step).  
3-8 Repeat action of Fig 1 (meas 7-12).  
9-16 Repeat action of meas 1-8 (Fig 1).