

Kleistós

(Greece)



Kleistós Horós (klees-TOHS-hoh-ROHS) means "closed dance." This refers to the hand hold used in the first in this medley of two dances, when dancers are close to one another. Kleistós is unique to the Argitheia region of the Agrapha Mountains of Thessaly. Agrapha ("the unwritten ones") refers to the fact that the Ottoman authorities never registered the villages of this area for tax purposes. This was because the region, the haunt of shepherds and klephts, was nearly inaccessible.

Even today, a tradition is followed when the local priest signals the start of a public celebration by leading the Kleistós dance for a short time.

Kleistós is in two parts: a Tsámikos-like dance followed by a dance of the Sta Dhió family. Because of the structured form, the closed position and the traditional nature of the dance, the leader does not do the acrobatic movements that might be found in the familiar form of the Tsamikós. Even in the more open second part of the dance the leader's variations are limited to simple turns or to dancing in front of the second person with right hands joined. Kleistós was presented by Joseph Kaloyanides Graziosi at the 1989 University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp.

RECORD: Songs of Thessaly-Part 1 SDNM 120 "Down to the Spring" Side B/6

CASSETTE: Joe Graziosi - Greek Regional Dances Side A/1
Joe Graziosi - Greek Dances JKG Som 87 Side A/1
Garlic Press - Kola i ora iz Belog Luka and Other Balkan Delights Side B/7

RHYTHM: Part I is in 3/4 meter  counted here as 1,2 (S,Q)
Part II is in 2/4 meter  counted here as 1,&,2,&

FORMATION: One open circle, leader at R end. Face slightly R of ctr. Elbows bent and hands joined, forearms parallel to floor (fingers may be interlocked). As an alternate, the R arm may be linked in the crooked L arm of dancer to the R.

MUSIC	3/4 and 2/4	PATTERN
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Measures
3/4

INTRODUCTION. Start at the beg of any phrase. A convenient place to start is with the vocal.

I. KLEISTÓS

- 1 Step on R in LOD (ct 1); step on L across in front of R (ct 2).
- 2 Step on R in LOD (ct 1); swing L across and in front of R with bent knee (ct 2).

- 3 Without leaning bkwd from waist, rock bkwd onto L ft, taking wt, with R heel remaining in place, R leg straight and ball of ft raised (ct 1); rock fwd, rolling onto full R ft (ct 2); draw L ft beside R with L knee bent (ct &).
- 4 Touch ball of L ft to L and slightly back (ct 1); step on L across in front of R (ct 2).

Repeat meas 1-4 until music changes to 2/4. On the Graziosi tapes there are 16 repetitions in all if dance begins with vocal.

TRANSITION

- 1 note Step on R in LOD.

2/4 II. STA DHIO'

During the first few meas of Sta Dhio the hands move to "W" pos and the circle enlarges to create a more comfortable spacing.

- 1 Facing R of ctr, step on L across in front of R (ct 1); turning to face ctr, bouncing on L, swing R ft around in front of L calf with bent knee (ct 2); bounce again on L while swinging R around in back of L (ct &).
- 2 Step bkwd on R behind L (ct 1); step on L in back of and to the R of R ft (ct 2); turning to face R of ctr, step on R in LOD (ct &).

Repeat Sta Dhio' until music ends.