

Tai Tai (Greece)

Tai Tai (TIGH TIGH) takes its name from the accompanying song refrain and is a contraction of "t'ainevene", meaning "ascending" in Thessaly dialect. The performance of the dance is associated with the festival of Easter, especially in the village of Aidhonohori in western Thessaly, and is the last dance done at the Easter celebration. The basic step pattern is a "sta tria", which is the most common dance type of Thessaly. Characteristic of the Tai Tai is the alternate formation of one dance line into two dance lines and back. Though not very common, this formation type is also found in other dances such as Koutso-Stamatistos (Kefalonia), Arahovitikos (Morea), "Pios Eidhe Prasino Dhendri" (Thasos), et. al. Presented by Joseph Kaloyanides Graziosi at the 1990 University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp.

RECORD: Folkraft LP 6 Side B/1.

2/4 meter

CASSETTE: Greek Dances Summer 1990 Side A/3: Greek Folkdances Summer 89 Side B/1.

FORMATION: Open circle appearance, alternate M-W in "plektos" hold, i.e. two open circle dance lines, traditionally with the W in the front line, the M in the rear, handkerchiefs joining the two lines are held by the first and last M and W of each line. The dancers of each independent line are linked by the simple "V" pos when in the "single" line formation, and in a "W" pos in the "two" line formation (which has the appearance of a crescent moon, since both lines of dancers are close together and are joined at each end). The first W is spaced between the first and second M, there being one less person in the front line than in the rear. (Should there be fewer men than women or visa versa, the front line may consist of the shorter dancers, the rear line of the taller.) The formation of the single line occurs when the M in the back line raise their hands over and in front of the W in the front line, giving the appearance of one open line, but consisting actually of two open lines, joined at each end by handkerchiefs. The opening up into two lines occurs during cts 1 & 2 of meas 1 of Fig II and the uniting into one circle occurs during the same cts of Fig I. Leader is at R end. Wt is on R ft (L ft is free).

STYLING: Smooth and gentle.

MUSIC 2/4 meter PATTERN

Measures

INTRODUCTION No action. Begin with vocal. (See Dance Sequence)

I. ONE LINE ("V" pos)

- 1 Facing slightly R of ctr and moving in LOD (CCW), step fwd on L ft across in front of R ft (ct 1); step fwd on R ft (ct 2); step fwd on L ft across in front of R ft (ct &).
- 2 Step fwd on R ft (ct 1); swing L ft low twd R ft (ct &); step diag bkwd to L onto L ft leaving R ft in position (ct 2); rock onto R ft (ct &).

II. TWO LINES ("W" pos)

- 1 Facing slightly R of ctr and moving in LOD, step fwd on L ft across in front of R ft (ct 1); step fwd on R ft turning to face ctr at end (ct 2).
- 2 Touch or raise L ft in front of R ft (ct 1); step to L on L ft (ct 2).
- 3 Touch or raise R ft in front of L ft (ct 1); step to R on R ft turning to face slightly R of ctr (ct 2).

TWO LINES - VARIATIONS (to be done on 3rd and 4th repetitions)

Meas 1 (M only): Facing slightly R of ctr and moving LOD, step fwd on L ft (ct 1); lift L heel (ct &); step fwd on R ft (ct 2); lift R heel (ct &).

Meas 2: Step fwd on L ft in front of R ft (ct 1); step back on R ft (ct &); step a little to the L on L ft (ct 2).

DANCE SEQUENCE:

Summer 1990 Cassette

Introduction - 7 meas.

FIG I - 7 times total (14 meas).

FIG II - 4 times plus meas 1 (13 meas).

Repeat Figs I and II to end of music.

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Introduction - 2 meas.

FIG I - 5 times total (10 meas).

FIG II - 4 times total (12 meas).

Repeat Figs I and II to end of music.

LYRICS to TAI TAI:

Summer 1990 Cassette (Sing each stanza twice)

Tis Alexandras to me toi vouno kanis, kanis then t'aineveni	Alexandra's mountain, No one, no one climbs it
Ki' i kori apo tai tai mor' embros, more vi ti ti, ki kori, apo t'ainevene	And the girl, tai tai oh forward oh, vi ti ti, and the girl climbing it
Aide ki kori apo ta'ainevene plegho-pleghondas to ghaitani	And the girl climbing it Plait-, plaiting the braid
Pleghondas mor tai tai mor' embros, more vi ti ti, pleghondas ki'ana pleghondas	Plaiting, oh tai tai, oh forward, oh vi ti ti, plaiting, and here plaiting
Aide pleghondas ki'ana, ple- ana pleghondas Ke psi-, ke psilotragounthondas	Let's go, plaiting, and here plait- here plaiting And sing-, and singing high
Pleghondas mor tai tai mor' embros, more vi ti ti pleghondas ki'ana pleghondas	Plaiting, oh tai tai, oh forward, oh vi ti ti, plaiting, and here plaiting

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Tis Alexandras, to vre toi vouno Kanis, kanis then t'aineveni (2) Ki' i kor', tai tai mor' embros, more vi ti ti, Ki' i kor', apo t'aineveni.	Alexandra's mountain, No one, no climbs it; (2) And the girl, tai tai oh forward oh vi ti ti, And the girl climbing it.
I kori apo, t'aine-, t'ainevene Plegho-, pleghondas to ghaitani (2) Plegho-, tai tai mor' embros, more vi ti ti Plegho-, pleghondas to ghaitani	And the girl climb-, climbing it, Plait-, plaiting the braid, (2) Plait-, tai tai oh forward oh vi ti ti, Plait-, plaiting the braid.
Pleghondas k' argople-, mor' pleghondas Ke psi-, ke psilotragouthondas. (2) Ke psi-, tai tai mor' embros more vi ti ti Ke psi-, ke psilotragouthondas.	Plaiting and slowly plait-, oh plaiting, And sing-, and singing high (2) And sing-, tai tai oh forward oh vi ti ti And sing-, and singing high.