

TURNING SYRTO

GREECE

This variation of the Syrto (sear-toe) was introduced by Sonny Newman, New York City, at the 1962 University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp. The turns in the dance are a natural outgrowth of the swinging movement of the body, and although they are not basic to the dance, they do make an interesting variation. They should be done *only* at the leader's indication. The costume worn by the women who did this dance included large silver ornaments on their wide belts. These ornaments reflected the sun as the dancers swung from side to side.

Record: Olympia 24-13 "Picnic in Greece," Side 2, band 4,
"Nesiotiko Syrto" - slow the tempo somewhat.

Festival F-3511

The original specific music for this dance is not available, but any smooth flowing, fairly fast melodic syrto is acceptable. The rhythm may be most easily counted "Slow (cts 1, &), quick (ct &)"

FORMATION: Open circle, facing ctr. Hands are joined at shoulder level, elbows bent. The leader is at R end with R arm extended at shoulder level, palm fwd. Dancer at L end usually carries hand on hip.

STEPS AND Grapevine, walking turn.

STYLING: The dance moves swiftly and smoothly with the shoulder leading the body into an even, regular swing from L to R.

MUSIC 2/4

PATTERN

Measures

- &, 2, & INTRODUCTION - No action. Leader may begin on ct 1 of any meas.
- 1 Step R to R, body swings to L (cts 1, &); cross L behind R, body still swings L (ct 2); step R to R, body swings to R (ct &).
- 2 Cross L in front of R, body still swings to R (ct 1, &); step R to R, body swings to L (ct 2); cross L behind R, body swings to L (ct &).
- Note: The first 2 meas are a grapevine in slow, quick, quick rhythm. The body swings in even cadence to L on cts 1, &, 2, to R on cts &, 1, &, to L on cts 2, &.
- 3 Step R to R, body swings to R (cts 1, &), cross L in front of R, leaving R in last pos (ct 2); step on R in place (ct &).
- 4 Step L to L, body swings to L (cts 1, &), cross R in front of L, leaving L in last pos (ct 2); step L in place (ct &).
- Note: To this point the dance is the usual syrto with the addition of an extra body swing in meas 2
- 5 Step R to R, body swings to R (ct 1, &); cross L in front of R, body still swings to R (ct 2); step R to R, body swings to L (ct &).
- 6 Cross L behind R, body swings to L (ct 1, &); step R to R, body swings to R (ct 2); cross L in front of R, body still swings to R (ct &).
- 7 Step R to R, body swings to L (ct 1, &); cross L behind R, leaving R in place (ct 2); step R in place (ct &).
- 8 Step L to L, body swings to R, (ct 1, &); cross R behind L, leaving L in place (ct 2); step L in place (ct &).
- Repeat meas 1-8 to end of music.

TURNING VARIATIONS

Double turns travelling in LOD can be initiated by the leader by giving a signal before the pro-

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per meas. These turns can be substituted for the action of meas 2 and the first ct of meas 3, or meas 6 and first ct of meas 7, but at no other time in the dance, thus.

RIGHT TURNS

- 2 Cross L in front of R, release hands, begin a CW turn (cts 1, &); completing turn, step R to R (ct 2); step L in front of R to begin another CW turn (ct &).
- 3 Step R, completing turn (ct 1, &); cross L in front of R, leaving R in place (ct 2); step on R in place (ct &). Continue to flow in LOD during meas 2 and (ct 1, & of meas 3.
- Repeat action of meas 4-5 as in original description, rejoining hands during meas 4.

LEFT TURNS

- 6 Cross L behind R, release hands, begin a CCW turn (ct 1, &); step R in LOD (ct 2); cross L behind R beginning another CCW turn (ct &).
- 7 Step R to R, completing turn (cts 1, &); cross L behind R, leaving R in pos (ct 2); step R in place ct &).
- Repeat meas 8 as in original description, rejoining hands.

Note: The leader may signal turns by raising his outstretched R arm above head, sometimes accompanied by shout or whistle. The signal must precede the turn by at least 1 meas. Turns in both directions need not be executed in one phrase of 8 meas. Sometimes the Right Turns are done during meas 2-3, and other times the Left Turns are done during meas 6-7.