DANCES OF THE WORLD'S PEOPLES
VOL. 4: Turkey, Israel, Greece, Armenia, Caucasus

**FOOTNOTE**

Dances were learned from Mr. T. Karanikolas, and
grateful acknowledgments are hereby rendered.

**SYRTOS**

This can be considered one of the most popular type dances performed in Greece. Many regions have its own variations and style. The Syrtos described is one of the most common found in Greek Dance Circles.

**RECORD** - Folkway LP 4478 Band 1

**FORMATION**

An open circle, leader at right end. Sometimes a handkerchief is held between the leader and the next dancer in line. This enables leader to perform variations and turns.

**STEP 1**
- Step on R ft to side, point L foot in front of R smoking shoes.

**STEP 2**
- Step L in place and point R in front of L, smoking shoes.

**STEP 3**
- Step to side with R ft, step L behind R and step R to side.

**STEP 4**
- Step lightly on R, a sort of step, quickly step L across and point R in front of L, with a slight dip, step R to side, and step L near R ft.

The entire dance takes 4 measures of music. Wait a few measures before beginning dance to get feel of music. Beat remains constant throughout.

**PONTIKAS**

This dance comes from Crete and is performed chiefly by Men. It has a tricky five step rhythm which can be mastered with practice.

**RECORD** - Folkway LP 4479 Band 2

**FORMATION**

An open circle with hands on adjoining dancers shoulders. Leader is at right end. Wait a few measures to pick up beat before starting.

**STEP 1**
- Step R ft in place and swing L ft across R.

**STEP 2**
- Step L ft in place and swing R ft across L.

**KAROTISERES**

The Karotiseres from Cyprus is very similar to the Butcher Dance, "Hajapous." Many of the steps performed in the Hajapous are also performed in this lively dance. There is no set sequence in which the steps are performed. The leader decides what patterns to dance. Below are described some of the typical steps performed.

**RECORD** - Folkway LP 4479 Band 3

**FORMATION**

An open circle with hands on adjoining dancers shoulders. Circle moves to the Right.

**STEP 1**
- Step side with R ft, step L in front of R, step side with R ft, play on L ft, swing L across and in front of R, step L ft to side and swing R on L ft, swing R ft across and in front of L. Repeat 3 times more.

**STEP 2**
- Feet together, weight on both heels, turn toes to R, weight on toes. Turn heels to R, continue this way performing the turning of the toes and heels to the right 3 more times, 3 times all in all, then step in place quickly R,L,R,L. This step performed 4 times in all followed by the basic step done 4 times.

**STEP 3**
- Moving to R, slide 4 times, then step R and swing L over R, step L and swing R over L. This step is done 4 times all in all followed by the basic step done 4 times.

**STEP 4**
- This step follows a basic. Circle R foot in air 2 times, jump to a squatting position, and jump up with weight on R ft. Repeat this circling of the R ft and squatting and jumping up. Perform 2 basic steps moving to the R, repeat the circling of the R ft and squatting steps 2 times. This whole step is performed 4 times all in all, followed by the basic step performed 4 times.

**BUTCHER DANCE**

A typical Bride's dance from Macedonia. Typical formation includes the Bride, who leads the dance, next to the bride is the best man, and the bridegroom and all the relatives in that order. This type of dance is danced to many different tempos, songs, and rhythms.

**RECORD** - Folkway LP 4479 Band 4

**FORMATION**

An open circle with hands joined, and held loosely.

**STEP 1**
- Step to R with R ft, step L in front of R, step R to side and point L ft in front of R.

**STEP 2**
- Step fwd, L,R,L, and point R ft in front of L.

**STEP 3**
- Step R to side, step L in front of R, step R to side, and point L ft in front of R.

**STEP 4**
- Step fwd, L,R,L, and point R ft in front of L.

**REPEAT DANCE FROM BEGINNING.**
DAI\N KALEM\AH\AH\N

Some consider this to be the National Dance of Greece. It is performed at all social functions.

RECORD - Folkway LP 7 Band 5 (From \PP-5\, SIDE I, Band 2)

FORMATION - An open circle, leader at Right End. Hands joined and held at shoulder height. Count throughout dance is Slow-Quick-Quick.

STEP 1 - Step to side on R ft. Step back of R with L ft, turning to face center step to side on R ft. with a slight hop. (S-Q-Q)

STEP 2 - Step L in front of R, Step to side on R turning slightly to \L, Step L in back of R ft. (S-Q-Q)

STEP 3 - Step to side with R ft, point L ft over and in front of R and pause a count. (S-Q-Q)

STEP 4 - Step to side with L ft, turning slightly to \L, Step on R in front of L and hold a count, transferring weight back to L. (S-Q-Q)

REPEAT DANCE FROM BEGINNING.

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TURKISH WHIPPING DANCE (TUNISI)

This is a typical Folk Dance from the Akaba area. At no time during the dance do the dancer touch each other. Grateful acknowledgement is made to Mr. Tarik Buley for his help in preparing this dance.

RECORD - Folkway LP 7 Band 6 (From \PP-4\, SIDE II, Band 3)

FORMATION - Two lines of dancers facing each other. Men on one side, women on the other. Hands are extended to the side with elbows slightly bent. All begin with \R ft. During the dance, dancers snap their fingers. Steps are made with a slight bounce effect and are performed in either single time, (6 steps per 8 measures of music) or in double time, (32 steps per 8 measures of music). Musical breakdown is 2-2-2-2-10 measures repeating again.

FIGURE 1 - Starting with \R ft, takes 8 steps in place, step \R to side, step \L next to \R, step \R next to \L, etc. Then with \R steps, partners change places moving to the \R, stepping \R to side, and stepping \L behind \R, (Single timing and snapping fingers.)

FIGURE 2 - Repeat action of Figure 1 again ending up in original starting position.

FIGURE 3 - Partners separate from each other with 8 Two-Steps, (Step-Together-Step) snapping fingers.

FIGURE 4 - With arms extended partners buzz step to the Right for 10 measures using double timing steps in place.

FIGURE 5 - With arms extended partners buzz step to the Left for 10 measures using double timing steps in place.

FIGURE 6 - Facing the little to the \L, partners move sideways toward each other stepping \R to side, and stepping \L behind \R for 6 measures, and buzz in front in place for 2 measures.

FIGURE 7 - Facing the little to the \R, partners move sideways toward each stepping \L to side and stepping \R behind \L for 6 measures and buzz step in place to the \L for 2 measures. (End figure facing partner in original starting place.)

FIGURE 8 - Partners separate from each other with 4 Two-Steps, and approach each other with 4 Two-Steps.

FIGURE 9 - Woman brings both hands up to \L side of cheek, bending head slightly to \L, and buzz steps in place moving to the \L, \L with arms extended moves around the \R to his \R. Both dancers snapping fingers continually. Use double timing steps for 10 measures of music. (W flips with \R)

FIGURE 10 - Woman brings both hands to \R side of cheek bending head slightly to \R, and buzz steps in place moving to the \R, \R with arms extended moves around the \R to his \L. Both dancers snapping fingers continually. Use double timing steps for 10 measures of music. (W flips with \R)

FIGURE 11 - Repeat action of Figure 1. (6 Measures)

FIGURE 12 - Repeat action of Figure 2. (8 Measures)

FIGURE 13 - Partners separate from each other with 4 Two-Steps and buzz step in place moving around to the right for 4 measures of music.

FIGURE 14 - Partners perform this step in place for 10 measures of music counting each step. With both arms extended to \R, sharply cross \R over \L, turning slightly to \L, step \L ft in place, step sharply to the \R side with \R ft, and step in place with the \L continue performing this step in place.

FIGURE 15 - Using 10 measures of music partners approach each other using the step as described in Figure 14, circling one another keeping \R shoulders toward each other. End figure as line of dancers, \R behind \L and facing \L around the room.

FIGURE 16 - Line of dancers move around the room with 8 two steps, \L with both hands on \R side of cheek on 1st Two-Step and on \L side of cheek on second etc. Glittering with \L, who moves his fingers furiously behind his head to attract her attention. Woman looks over shoulder occasionally to see that man is behind her and not someone else.

NOTE - Dancers sometimes wear small symbols in their fingers to create beat rhythm of music.

TURKISH HALAY (TUNISI)

A characteristic dance from the Eastern part of Turkey. Related to many circular dances found in the Balkan countries. Grateful acknowledgement is made to Mr. Tarik Buley for his help in preparing this dance.

RECORD - Folkway LP 7 Band 7 (From \PP-4\, SIDE II, Band 6)

FORMATION - An open circle, hands are joined and held down at sides. Dancers are very close together and move as a whole unit. Drum beat in music remains constant, while music has tendency to wander. Steps are described in counts. Dancers are encouraged to listen to drum beat instead of music. Wait a few measures to pick up beat or drum.

BASIC STEP

Count 1 - Step \R to side,
2 - Step \L back in front of \R,
3 - Step \R to side,
4 - Point \L slightly \R
5 - With both feet together, bend both knees to \L, weight on ball of foot. Body turns with knees,
6 - With a sharp motion, straighten knees, face center of room.
7 - With both feet together, bend both knees to \L, weight on ball of foot. Body turns with knees,
8 - With a sharp motion, straighten knees, face center of room.

JUMP STEP

Count 1 - Moving sideways, perform a Two-Step, (Step-Together-Step) then jump slightly \R, bending both knees slightly.
2 - Straighten knees, and pause a count.
3 - Moving from \R to left and with a sharp motion, bend both knees slightly, leap \R to \L, and straighten knees, to create a swirling movement.
4 - Repeat counts 5-8 again, bending knees in a circular movement from \R to \L and straightening knees to create a swirling movement.

DANCE SEQUENCE

1 - Perform the basic step 8 times.
2 - Perform the jump step 8 times.
3 - Perform the basic step 8 times.
4 - Perform the jump step 8 times.
5 - Perform the basic step 8 times.
6 - Perform the jump step 2 times.

REPEAT FROM #1.
Tol Hergis is a dance-song in which the dancers perform to the singing of a choral group. This is a circular dance for both men and women; it can also be performed in a line. These type of dances are called "Hergi.

**RECORD** - Folkway LP #  Band 8 (From 4FP-606, SIDE 1, Band 1)

**FORMATION** - An open circle, hands joined at shoulder height and joined with little fingers interlocking. This holds is typical of many of the Armenian Hergi Dances.

**STEP 1** - Step R ft to side, Step L in front of N, Step R ft to side, Point L ft across and in front of N. Step L ft to L side and point B ft across and in front of L. Repeat 7 times more, 8 times in all.

**STEP 2** - VARIATIONS OF ABOVE STEP.

Step R ft to side, Step L in front of N, Step R ft to side. Point L ft across and in front of N. Step L to L side and point B ft across and in front of L. Then stamp R ft near L 3 times in sort of a bouncy fashion. Repeat 7 times more, 8 times in all.

**NOTE** - In taking the first 3 steps, dancers can turn completely around with the three steps and continue with the pointing steps.

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**DEBAKA LILI SABA** (ISRAEL)

A popular Israeli dance that utilizes the Deba Jump of the Arabs. Many of these types of Deba dances exist with several variations of the basic step.

**RECORD** - Folkway LP #  Band 9 (From 4PV-915, SIDE 1, Band 3)

**FORMATION** - A group of dancers (6-12) standing in a line around the room. Hands joined and held down, during dance, dancers stay close together, shoulders almost touching. Lines move counterclockwise.

**PART-A**

1-3 - Step fwd R ft, step fwd L ft, brush R ft slightly fwd and step on R. ft.

4-6 - Step on L ft with B shoulder leading, step fwd on R, then with both feet together, turn a half turn to L, moving whole body, and a half turn to the R, moving whole body.

**REPEAT PART-A ONE MORE TIMES PERFORMED 2 TIMES IN ALL (15 measures in all)

**PART-B**

7-10 - Step fwd, L, then R, then L. Step fwd on R with a slight bend, lifting L and a slight jump with the R ft to the R, replacing the L ft.

11-13 - Jump to the L, with both feet together, (facing center), step to the L with the L ft, with a slight knee bend, step 8 next to L ft, then drop hands and clap them 3 quick times. Group remains facing center.

**REPEAT PART-B again, taking the steps fwd toward center of room, end up by facing clockwise, immediately join hands again to start dance from the beginning.

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**BO NA HANOU** (ISRAEL)

**RECORD** - Folkway LP #  Band 11 (From 915, SIDE 11, Band 1)

**FORMATION** - Couples facing Counterclockwise, inside hands joined at bent forward, waist high. Woman's arm resting over man's arm. Free hands are raised high in front and bent at elbows. Thumb and first finger are touching to form a shape similar to a knot, the other three fingers are extended upward. Steps are described for Woman, Man does counterpart.

**PART-1**

1 - Takes 8 measures of music.

1 - Step fwd on R ft, bend R knees, step fwd L ft, & bend L knees.

2 - Step fwd on R ft, bend R knees, moving toward partner, jump on to L ft and cross R ft in front of L.

3 - Balance to the left and lean away from partner.

4 - Step on L ft to the L, step R ft in place, Cross L ft over R. ft and pause. (End up close to partner)

5-8 - Repeat #'s 1-4 again.

**PART-2**

1 - Partners moving back to back & slightly fwd in line of direction. Step R ft fwd, step L next to R. Step R ft fwd & pause, Partners look at each other over man's L and W's R shoulders.

2 - Step L ft in line of direction, then time pivoting slightly on R ft. to turn and face partner. Step R ft in place. Cross L ft. over R ft. toward partner. Free hand curved, and pause.

3 - Facing partner, step R ft. to the R side. Step L ft in place. Step fwd on R ft. turning so that the N & W face in line of direction and pause.

4 - Facing Line of Direction Step L ft to L side, Step R ft in place, cross L ft. over R ft. and pause.

5-8 - Repeat Part 2, #'s 1-4 again.

**REPEAT DANCE FROM BEGINNING.**
LEZGinka (Caucasia)

The Lezginka is a very popular dance in both the North and South Caucasus. Many versions exist. This one being for couples, in which the man dances with vigor and the woman with restraint.

FORMATION - Double circle, Man on inside, Woman on outside, both facing Idea Of Direction. Each figure is divided into 2 parts, the first part takes 10 measures of music, and the second takes 6 measures totaling 16 measures altogether.

SPECIAL STEPS USED IN THIS DANCE

BRUSH STEP - Step on L ft, brush R diagonally across to L, Brush R ft. backward to the L of the L ft. Brush the R ft. forward to the R of the L ft. Step on the R ft, then step on the L ft. (Repeat 1, 3, & 4) Repeat starting with R ft. (Each brush step takes 1 measure of music.)

LEZGINKA STEP - Brush the R ft forward and pull R ft back stepping (Woman) on it, bring L ft up to R & step R ft forward. Repeat.

SOLO STEPS - Brush L ft fwd with R knee slightly bent. (1)
Circle L ft, up and backward and straighten R knee with a slight hop
Brush R ft fwd with L knee slightly bent
Circle R ft, up and backward and straighten L knee with a slight hop.

Leap up on toes, heels out
Come down on heels together
Rear on toes again.
Hold = (1 Measure)
Drop on R toe with knee bent
Pivot a half turn to the L, stepping on L ft
Step on R ft completing the turn (1 Measure)

SOLO STEP (B) TAKES 2 MEASURES OF MUSIC

FIGURE 1
- Introduction to dance. Both dancers wait quietly. Man with R arm across the body with the fist clenched and L arm at side.
- Dancers start with R ft move around the circle with this step. Step R, L, R & point L toe across R, and to the side of R ft. Repeat again alternating feet. (6 steps in all).

FIGURE 2
- While W stand in place with hands clenched on hips, Man moves CW in inner circle with 10 of the steps described in Figure 1. (6 ft across body with fists clenched and L arm at side.)

FIGURE 3
- Partners move side by side CW, M do Step Hop 6 times starting with R ft in front of body. R hand to side for first 3 step-hops and reversing hand position for the 2nd five Step Hops. Then Man takes 10 Step Hops circling CW clockwise and back to place. (Change of hands occurs after every 5 Step Hops. Woman does the Lezginka steps 10 times fwd with R arm high across body and R to side and 10 times in place with arm extended diagonally downward as M wounded.)

FIGURE 4
- Repeat the step in Figure 1, Part 2, moving CW.

FIGURE 5
- Woman circles M in a CW direction with 10 pas-de-debaque steps. (Leap to side with R, Cross L over R, repeat starting with L.) Starting with R ft, then circle M with 10 more pas-de-debaque steps, L arm in front of body, R to side, while man does solo step (A) eight times then makes a turn to the L (complete) and then steps L, R & H. Repeat the Solo Step again.

FIGURE 6
- Repeat the step in Figure 1, Part 2, moving CW.

FIGURE 7
- While Woman circles Man as in Figure 4, Man performs Solo Step (B) 10 times altogether with much vigor.

FIGURE 8
- Woman circles Man as in Figure 4, while Man performs Solo Step (B) three times, dropping to one knee at last beat of music. Woman stops and end dance by facing Man.