

'Kariótikos

Greece (Ikariá)

'Kariótikos (kahr-YOH-tee-kohss) takes its name from the Greek island Ikariá, the crash site of Icarus, a precocious, but obstinate, mythological teenager whose wax wings fell off when he flew too near the sun. The natives drop the first "I" when referring to this traditional dance. The dance is lively and resembles the *sousta* (Greek for *spring*) dances of the Dodecanese Islands, with the typical delay in taking the second step of the first measure. 'Kariótikos bears little resemblance in pattern or music to the Americanized version Ikariótikos, introduced to American folk dancers in the '60s. The version presented here is typical of the villages in the northern part of the island. A version danced in the southern villages around Hrisotomos has been taught by John Pappas. Individual dancers usually dance the basic pattern, but may vary the steps in measures two or three when moved to do so. Variations described below are from Joe Graziosi (Mendocino Folklore Camp 1991), John Pappas (most recently at MFL 2001) and Athan Karras (Stockton Folk Dance Camp 2001).

Music: Cassettes: John Pappas - Elliniki Hori #3, Side A/4; 2/4 meter
Joe Graziosi - Greek Dances, N/S Teachers' Seminar, 1995, Sides A/4,5,6;
Ziyiá - From the Mountains to the Islands, Side B/4.
CD: Athan Karras - The Spirit of Greek Dance, Band 6.
Record: Folk Dancer 4050-A

Formation: Mixed open circle facing center, arms in T-pos with leader on the right end. Although the shoulder hold is traditional, some folk dancers prefer W-pos.

Styling: Steps are small and lively with weight on balls of feet.

Measures 2/4 meter PATTERN

INTRODUCTION. Begin at the choice of the leader.

I. HASAPOSERVIKO

- 1 Facing diag R of ctr and moving in LOD, step on R (ct 1); step on L across in front of R (ct 2).
- 2 Turning to face ctr, step on R to R (ct 1); swing L leg across in front of R or touch L ft fwd beside R ft (ct 2).
- 3 Step on L to L (ct 1); swing R leg across in front of L or touch R ft fwd beside L ft (ct 2).

II. BASIC 'KARIÓTIKO STEP.

- 1 Facing ctr and moving in LOD, step on R to R (ct 1); hop on R, swinging L leg CCW around R (ct 2); step on L behind R (ct &).
- 2 Leap onto R to R, bringing L ft slightly behind R ft (ct 1); leap onto L to L, bringing R leg twd L leg (ct 2); leap onto R to R, bringing L leg twd R leg (ct &).
- 3 Step on L across in front of R (ct 1); step on R to R (ct 2); step on L across in front of R (ct &).

Figs. III-VIII below are some of the variations of Fig. II that may be danced by individual dancers at any time after the transition to Fig. II. Because the meas 3 variations in Figs. III-VI do not travel as far during meas 3 as the Basic (Fig. II), some adjustment of the steps during meas 1 and 2 might be necessary to preserve dancer spacing in the line.

III. PAUSE

- 1-2 Repeat Fig. II, meas 1-2.
- 3 Step on L across in front of R (ct 1); close R to L, no wt (ct 2); pause (ct &). To lengthen the PAUSE, the position of the R ft may be retained during meas 1, ct 1 of the following figure, either by taking wt on R (meas 3, ct &) and bouncing on R (meas 1, ct 1 of the following figure), or by transferring wt with a small step on R ft in place (meas 1, ct 1 of the following figure).

IV. TWIST

- 1-2 Repeat Fig. II, meas 1-2.
- 3 Step fwd on L, bending both knees and twisting body CW by swinging R ft behind L knee (ct 1); step bkwd from ctr on R, swinging L fwd (ct 2); step back on L (ct &).

V. SWIVEL

- 1-2 Repeat Fig. II, meas 1-2.
- 3 Step on ball of L ft across in front of R, swiveling CW as R toe touches across behind L heel (ct 1); shifting wt partly to R toe, swivel CCW (ct 2); swivel CW, restoring wt to L (ct &).

VI. ROCK-ROCK

- 1-2 Repeat Fig. II, meas 1-2.
- 3 Step on L across in front of R (ct 1); rock bkwd onto R (ct 2); rock fwd onto L (ct &).

VII. JUMP

- 1 Repeat Fig. II, meas 1.
- 2 Jump heavily onto both ft (ct 1); hop twice on R, raising L leg fwd with knee bent (cts 2,&).
- 3 Step on L across in front of R (ct 1); step on R to R (ct 2); step on L across in front of R (ct &).

VIII. SWING

- 1 Repeat Fig. II, meas 1.
- 2 Leap onto R to R, swinging bent L leg CCW, so that L shin is behind R calf (ct 1); swing L leg CW around in front of R (ct 2).
- 3 Step on L across in front of R (ct 1); step on R to R (ct 2); step on L across in front of R (ct &).

IX. DOUBLE SWING

This five measure variation must be called by the leader for all to follow.

- 1-2 Repeat Fig. II, meas 1-2.
- 3 Step on L across in front of R (ct 1); swing straight R leg fwd in CCW arc, while hopping twice on L and turning to face L of ctr (cts 2,&).
- 4 Repeat meas 3 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 5 Step on L across in front of R (ct 1); step on R to R (ct 2); step on L across in front of R (ct &).

Sequence: The transition from Fig. I to Fig. II is initiated at the convenience of the leader. Others follow within a few measures. Normally Fig. I is not repeated, as Fig. II and variations are danced to the end of the music.