

## Malevyziotikos (Crete)

The Malevyziotikos is probably the second most commonly performed dance in Crete today; the most popular being the Syrtos or Haniotikos. Due to its fast tempo and the ease with which it lends itself to the execution by the lead dancer of intricate tsalimia, improvised figures, it is especially popular with the younger generations. Originating from the Iraklion district of Crete, the name refers to the Malevyzi area near the city of Iraklion. Other names for the dance are Kastrinos, referring to the old popular name for Iraklion, Kastro, and Pidhikhtos, which refers to the "leaping" character of the dance. The variations described below are just a few of the more basic ones, usually performed by the lead dancer only, but which are often choreographed for the entire troupe if performed for stage purposes.

Pronunciation: mah-leh-vee-see-OH-tee-kohs

Cassette: Graziosi - Asia Tape; Greek Folkdances Summer 89 Side A/9. 2/4 meter

Formation: Open circle; "W" open arm hold; direction is diagonally right into circle center and almost straight back.

### Meas

### Pattern

#### BASIC PATTERN.

- 1 Facing ctr, step R fwd diag R (ct 1); step L fwd diag R in front of R (ct 2); step R in back of L (ct &).
- 2 Step L fwd diag R (ct 1); step R fwd diag R in front of L (ct 2); step L in back of R (ct &).
- 3 Step R fwd diag R (ct 1); hopping on R, lift L up with knee flexed or swing it fwd (ct 2).
- 4 Step L bkwd (ct 1); step R bkwd (ct 2); step L next to R (ct &).
- 5 Step R bkwd (ct 1); step L bkwd (ct 2); step R next to L (ct &).
- 6 Step L bkwd (ct 1); hopping on L, lift R up with knee flexed or swing it fwd (ct 2).

#### RESTING PATTERN.

- 1 Step R fwd diag R (ct 1); brush or touch L next to R (ct 2).
- 2 Step L fwd diag R (ct 1); brush or touch R next to L (ct 2).
- 3 Repeat meas 1.
- 4-6 Repeat Basic Pattern above.

Note: With a repetition of meas 1-3 with opp ftwk and direction for meas 4-6, this pattern often introduces the dance; usually on the third time the Basic Pattern of meas 4-6 is performed to start the dance proper.

#### VARIATION LIMPING BACKWARDS.

- 4 Step L bkwd (ct 1); hopping on L, lift R slightly up (ct 2); step R bkwd (ct &).
- 5 Repeat meas 4 above.
- 6 Repeat meas 6 of the Basic Pattern.

#### STRADDLE.

- 1 Jump on both R and L, ft apart, but with wt balancing on R (ct 1); jump onto L sdwds R bkwd in place (ct 2); step R behind and in back of L (ct &).
  - 2 Step L diag fwd R (ct 1); hopping on L, swing R up and fwd (ct 2).
  - 3 Step R diag fwd R (ct 1); hopping on R, swing L up and fwd (ct 2).
- Note: Meas 2 can also be a repetition of the Basic Pattern, meas 2.

## Malevyziotikos (continued)

- LEAP.**
- 1 Step R diag fwd L (ct 1); hopping on R, swing L up and fwd (ct 2).
  - 2 Step L fwd, lifting R off the ground (ct 1); leap onto R fwd with a "bicycle" motion, lifting L up (ct 2).
  - 3 "Slap" L fwd, leg straight, wt still on R (ct 1); hold (ct 2).

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