

Tsamiko Kleftiko

(Sarakatsani, Greece)

The Sarakatsani or Karakazani are Greek-speaking former nomads who roamed with their herds throughout the Southern Balkan peninsula. This variation of the Tsamiko is danced by men and has a 7-measure structure. It is also referred to as Kleftikos, associating it to the Klefti or Kleftiko brigands or "freedom fighters" of Northwestern Greece during the later Ottoman period.

Source: Sarakatsani Dancers from the Drama-Kavala region.

Pronunciation: TSAH-mee-koh KLEF-tee-koh

Cassette: Steve's Stockton '97, The Big 50

3/4 or 6/8 meter

Formation: M in a semi-circle, hands joined in W-pos.

Meas

Pattern

BASIC

- 1 Facing slightly R of ctr, step fwd on R in LOD (ct 1); slide step on L to R ft (ct &); step fwd on R in LOD (ct 2); step on L across in front of R (ct 3).
- 2 Repeat meas 1.
- 3 Still moving fwd in LOD, hop on L (ct 1); turning to face ctr, step on R to R (ct 2); hop on R and lift L ft up slightly behind R leg (ct 3).
- 4 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 5 Turning to face ctr, step on L to L with accent (ct 1); brush or swing-kick R ft fwd and to R (ct 2); leap onto R to R (ct 3).
- 6 Repeat meas 5.
- 7 Step on L in place with accent (ct 1); hold (ct 2); hop on L and raise R ft up in front of L knee (ct 3).

VARIATION I

- 1 With arms up, turn CW with ftwk of Basic, meas 1.
- 2 Repeat meas 1, turning to L (CCW).
- 3 Repeat Basic, meas 3.
- 4 Reverse turning action of meas 1.
- 5 Stamp L to L and lift R ft up high in back (ct 1); kick-swing R ft fwd (ct 2); leap onto R in place and bring L ft up and fwd (scissor-kick) and slap L ft with R hand (ct 3).
- 6 Repeat meas 5.
- 7 Repeat Basic, meas 7.

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VARIATION II

- 1-2 Repeat Basic, meas 1-2.
- 3 Squat deep into both knees (cts 1-2); hop on R in place and raise L ft up in place (ct 3).
- 4 Beginning to turn L (CCW), step fwd on L (ct 1); continuing to turn L, hop on L (ct 2); completing turn, step on R in place (ct 3).
- 5-6 Repeat Variation I, meas 5-6.
- 7 Repeat Basic, meas 7.

Presented by Steven Kotansky