

Vary Hasapiko

(Greece)

The Hasapika dances are a classification form of multiple variations of dances which are individualized with styling and regional characteristics. The basic form of the Hasapika dances had its origins during the Byzantium Empire with the "Butcher's Guilds." From these the music and dances spread like wildfire throughout the outlying areas of Southeastern Europe and the Near East. One such dance became the Vary Hasipiko, or "Argo" ("slow" in Greek). Its peculiar style grew out of the fishermen on the island of Salamis. It was known as "Koulouriotiko" (named from the village of Koulouri, Salamis). It is known by other names, such as "Nafiko" (Sailors) or Rebetiko. In the last fifty years, it has gained great popularity as a musical form and as a dance. Its woeful lyrics and soulful romanticism found deep expression in the cadenced and deliberate movements which identified its engaging style. Originally it was danced by men, and always in small groups, no more than five or six at best, all dancers carefully following the leader. Women did not participate in this dance originally, but with the emerging popularity, it was difficult to contain it within social barriers, or even ethnic boundaries. Its exploding success has also led many musicians and composers to write new tunes to this established style.

Pronunciation: vah-REE hah-SAH-pee-koh

CD: The Spirit of Greek Dance with Athan Karras AK2001, Band 14

2/4 meter

Formation: Line of dancers, arms in T-pos.

Styling: The Leader might signal in preparation to a change of step.

Meas

Pattern

INTRODUCTION

Prior to starting with the Basic Step, dancers line up and familiarize themselves with the tempo of the musical composition, as in:

- 1 Facing ctr, step on R to R (ct 1); bring L to R, no wt (ct 2).
- 2 Step on L to L (ct 1); bring R to L (ct 2).
- 3 With ft together, open toes diag out (ct 1); open heels diag out (ct 2).
- 4 Close heels together (ct 1); close toes together (ct 2).

A. BASIC VARY HASAPIKO

- 1 Facing ctr and leaning body fwd, drop onto L to ctr, leaving the R behind (ct 1); tap R toe behind (ct &); swing R ft through fwd (ct 2); circle R ft around behind L (ct &).
- 2 Step on R close behind L (ct 1); bring L ft around behind R (ct &); step on L close behind R heel (ct 2).
- 3 Take a large step on R to R (ct 1); step on L in front of R (ct &); step on R in place (pas de basque) (ct 2).
- 4-12 Repeat meas 1-3 three times (4 total).

B. THREE-TWO-ONE

- 1 Moving in LOD, step on L heel across in front of R (ct 1); small step on R to R (ct &); repeat cts 1, & (cts 2, &).
- 2 Step on L across in front of R (ct 1); swing R across in front of L in preparation for moving in RLOD (ct &); repeat meas 1, cts 1, & with opp ftwk and direction (cts 2,&).
- 3 Repeat meas 2, cts 2, & (cts 1, &); repeat meas 2, cts 1, & with opp ftwk and direction (ct 2,&).

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- 4 Repeat meas 1, cts 1, & (cts 1,&); repeat meas 2, cts 1, & (ct 2,&).
- 5 Repeat meas 4 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 6 Step on L across in front of and close to R (ct 1); step on R across in front of and close to L (ct 2).
- 7 Repeat meas 6, ct 1 (ct 1); close R to L, no wt (ct 2).

Ba. JUMP AND LEAP

- 1-2 Repeat Introduction, meas 3-4.
- 3 Jump with ft apart and knees bent (ct 1); jump with ft together, straightening knees (ct 2).
- 4 Repeat meas 3.
- 5 Leap onto R (ct 1); leap fwd onto L (ct 2).

C. MESA-EXO (grapevine)

- 1 Step on L across in front of R (ct 1); large step on R to R (ct &); step on L across behind R (ct 2); step on R to R (ct &).
- 2 Step on L across in front of R (ct 1); swing R across in front of L (ct 2).
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 5-6 Repeat meas 1-2.

Ca. PSEFTIKO (false step)

- 1 Step on R in front of and close to L, bending fwd and raising L slightly off the floor (ct 1); step on L in place (ct 2).
- 2 Step on R across behind L (ct 1); Step on L across behind R (ct 2).
- 3 Take large step on R to R (ct 1); step on L in front of R (ct &); step on R in place (pas de bas) (ct 2).

D. PIDIMA (leaping step)

- 1 Facing ctr, leap onto L diag fwd to L (ct 1); leap onto R diag fwd to R (ct 2).
- 2 Leap onto L diag fwd to L (ct 1); hold (ct 2).
- 3 Step on R across behind and close to L (ct 1); step on L across behind and close to R (ct 2).
- 4 Take large step on R to R (ct 1); step on L in front of R (ct &); step on R in place (pas de bas) (ct 2).

E. KLOTSIA (kick step)

- 1 Step directly fwd to ctr on L (ct 1); kick R ft fwd hitting R heel (ct 2).
- 2 Repeat meas 1, ct 2 twice (cts 1,2).
- 3 Lunge on R, bending knees to kneel on L (ct 1); push back, restoring wt to L (ct 2).
- 4 Keeping L on floor, take a large step bkwd on R, bending R knee and straightening L knee as L toe is raised from floor (ct 1); push wt fwd over L ft (ct 2).
- 5 Repeat meas 3, but lunge fwd diag on R.
- 6 Repeat meas 4.
- 7 Repeat meas 5, with opp ftwk (lunge fwd diag on L).
- 8 Repeat meas 4.

The Basic Vary Hasapiko steps are the mainstay of the dance. Variations are introduced, but between each variation, always return to a few sequences of the Basic step.

Presented by Athan Karras