

GAIDA  
(Greece)

**Source:** This dance is done all over northern Greece and is the same as the Hasápihos. Gáida" means bagpipe, and so this dance is done to bagpipe music. Often, however, other instruments play bagpipe melodies, imitating the sound of the Gáida. A special characteristic of the Gáida dance is that it starts off slowly and gradually speeds up.

**Music:** 2/4 time  
Record: Music from All Around Greece, Fidelity LP 0304  
Columbia 3414 (45)

**Formation:** A broken circle with arms on shoulders.

**Characteristics:** The dance is for both men and women. There can be many variations, with the men doing very involved variations. In such a case, separate lines for men and women are a good idea. However, when only the basic step is done, a mixed line is fine. The men can raise the ft high off the floor, but the women never do.

BASIC STEP

<u>meas</u>	<u>cts</u>	2/4 time
I	1	Step sdwd to R on R.
	2	Step across in front of R on L.
II	1	Step sdwd to R on R.
	2	Touch L in front of R (or lift L across in front of R).
III	1	Step sdwd to L on L.
	2	Touch R ft in front of L (or lift R across in front of L).

Variation (Turns)

I	1	Freeing arms from shoulders, step R on R starting to turn to R.
	2	Step on L, continuing turn.
II	1	Step on R ft, completing turn.
		Rejoin in arm hold.
	2 . )	
III	1,2)	As above in basic step.

Variation (fast music)

I	1	Step to R on R.
	2	Step across in front of R on L.
II	1	Turning to face L, leap on R bending body slightly.
	2	Swing L ft behind R leg.
III	1, &	Straightening up and facing ctr, do a pas de basque to L, (stepping L to L, R ft in front of L, and rocking bkwd on L ft).

Presented by John Pappas