

Koftó syrto, or Koftós

(Lefkada, Greece)

Koftó syrto, which means “cut-off syrto,” is a peculiar form of a Kalamatianos-like syrto in which the orchestra plays a syrto melody with abrupt, “cut-off” endings, usually every 8 measures, when the dancers also stop, or “freeze” in a certain position. I have seen many variations of this in Greece. Here I present a version in which the dancers freeze, alternately, in two different positions, when the music stops... and keep dancing when there is no stop in the music!

Pronunciation: kawf-TOH seer-TOH

Music: *Balkan and Beyond, Greek Dances*, Band 8; “Koftós,” *Greek Dances* (Nevofoon LP-15021).
2/4 meter

Formation: Long line, leader on R. High handhold (W-pos) with some bouncing of the hands.

Styling: Bouncy

Meas Pattern

INTRODUCTION.

BASIC STEP: A BOUNCY “KALAMATIANOS SYRTOS”

- 1 Facing ctr and moving R, hop on L (ct 1); step on R to R (ct &); step on L behind R (ct 2); step on R to R (ct &).
- 2 Turning to face diag R and moving R, hop on R (ct 1); step on L across in front of R (ct &); step on R to R (ct 2); step on L across in front of R (ct &).
- 3 Dancing in place, hop on L (ct 1); step on R to R (ct &); step on L across in front of R (ct 2); step on R in place behind L (ct &).
- 4 Dancing in place, hop on R (ct 1); step on L to L (ct &); step on R behind L (ct 2); step on L across in front of R (ct &).
- 5-7 Repeat meas 1-3.
- 8 Stop abruptly on ct 1: jump onto L, placing R heel on floor in front (twd ctr) and raising arms high (“U”), while shouting “hey!” Hold (freeze) in this position until the music begins again.
- 8 (alt) Every other (second) time: Stop abruptly by turning slightly L of ctr, stepping on L slightly L of ctr, knees bent, and clapping hands in front of chest. Hold this position until the music begins again.
- 8 (alt) When the music does not stop: Repeat meas 4.

Sequence: The sequence on this recording is:
hands high (intro), clap, do not stop, do not stop;
hands high, clap, hands high, do not stop;
clap, hands high, clap, do not stop, hands high

Dance notes by Lee Otterholt
Presented by Lee Otterholt