

SYRTÓS - KALAMATIANÓS  
(Greece)

Source: The Syrtós is a panhellenic dance. Syrtós means dragging dance, so it more properly applies to dances with a smoother flowing movement. The Kalamatianós has the same basic step as the Syrtós, but it is often bouncy and leaping in character. When a dance is leaping, it is called a Pithichtós, or leaping dance. The Syrtós can also be a Pithichtós in styling. Thus, one can see that the nomenclature is somewhat confusing. There is one more criterion for describing the dances: the Syrtós is in 2/4 time, the Kalamatianós is in 7/8 time. Actually, then it is the music which decides what the dance is called. The music also tells the dancer how to dance: some music demands smooth, dragging steps, other music demands high leaping steps. The dance is described in these three books:

Greek Folk Dances, M. Vouras and R. Holden (New Jersey, 1965).

Elliniki Hori, V. Papahristos (Athens, 1960).

Folk Dances of the Greeks, T. and E. Petrides (New York, 1961).

Pronunciation: seer-TOHS, kah-lah-mah-tee-ah-NOHS

Music: The music is in either 2/4 or 7/8 time. The dance can be done to any number of tunes. Like the Tsamikos, there are thousands of tunes to choose from, so I will just list a few.

"Horós Kalamatianós" (the classic leaping kalamatianós), Discphon LP

"Hermaniótikos" (a very slow leaping kalamatianós)

"Rakambána" (a leaping kalamatianós) Alector LP

"Samiótissa" (a syrtó-type kalamatianós without leaping)

"Amerikí" (a leaping syrtós) Discphon LP

"Nína Nái" (a fast syrtós)

"Ámaxa" (a leaping kalamatianós)

Formation: A broken circle with hands joined at shldr height, elbows bent and down. The hands should not be pushed fwd into the circle, but should be comfortably back near the sldrs.

Characteristics: This dance is for both M and W. The M can be more energetic in their styling than the W. Depending on the music, it can be either a smooth or leaping dance.

SYRTÓS - KALAMATIANÓS (continued)BASIC STEP: 2/4 or 7/8 time

The rhythm is broken down into patterns of slow, quick, quick, OR, long, short, short. In the description I will describe the steps in terms of this pulsing rhythm, rather than in terms of overall rhythm.

2/4:  7/8: 

Meas

I	slow	Step sdwd to R on R.
	quick	Step behind the R on L.
	quick	Step sdwd to R on R.
II	slow	Step across in front of R on L.
	quick	Step sdwd to R on R.
	quick	Step across in front of R on L.
III	slow	Step sdwd to R on R.
	quick	Step next to R on L.
	quick	Step in place on R.
IV	slow	Step in place on L.
	quick	Step in place on R.
	quick	Step in place on L.

Presented by John Pappas

PERATIANÓS (HEIMARIÓTIKOS)  
(Greece)

A very slow version of the dance Kalamatianós is known as Peratianós (peh-rah-tee-ah-NOHS), Heimariótikos (hee-mah-ree-OH-tee-kohs), or Berátis (beh-RAH-teess). This dance is slower and more stately than the typical Kalamatianós. It is often danced by men only (like the Tsámiko). One other characteristic of the dance is that it sometimes speeds up and even changes from 7/8 to 2/4 meter. Variations of the dance are found in northern, central, and southern Greece.

Music: Songs and Dances of Greece, Audio International LP 206.  
Picnic in Greece, Olympic 24-13.  
Tragodia Tou Longou, Melophone Mel 31.

For information on formation, basic pattern, etc., use the information given in the above description of Syrtós-Kalamatianós.

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