

Tai Tai

(Thessaly)

The dance Tai-Tai takes its name from the accompanying song refrain and is a contraction of "t'a(i)nevene" meaning "ascending". The performance of the dance is associated with the festival of Easter, especially in the village of Aidhonorori in western Thessaly. The basic step pattern is a "sta tria", which is the most common dance type of Thessaly. Characteristic of the Tai-Tai is the alternate formation of one and two dance circles. Though not very common, this formation type is also found in other dances such as Koutso-Stamatistos (Kefalonia), Arahovitikos (Morea), "Pios Eidhe Prasino Dhendri" (Thasos), et. al.

Pronunciation:

Music: Folkraft LP 6 Side B/1; Greek Folkdances Summer 89 Side B1 2/4/ meter

Formation: Open circle, alternate W-M; "plektos" hold, i.e., two open circle dance lines with the W in the front, and the M in the rear; the first M is spaced between the first and second W (there being two more persons in the front line than the rear). The dancers of each circle are linked by the simple "V" hand hold and in forming a single circle, the M raise their hands over the heads of the W, then lower them down with the first and last M holding the handkerchiefs of the first and last W. The opening up into two circles occurs during cts 1&2 of meas 1 of the Second Part and the uniting into one circle occurs during the same cts of the First Part.

Meas

Pattern

- PART A (one circle).
- 1 Facing slightly R of ctr, step L fwd LOD across in front of R (ct 1); step R fwd (ct 2); step L fwd across in front of R (ct &).
 - 2 Step R fwd (ct 1); swing L low fwd twd R (ct &); step L bkwd (ct 2); rock back onto R (ct &).
 - 3-12 Repeat meas 1-2 five times.
- PART B (two circles).
- 1 Step L fwd across in front of R (ct 1); step R fwd (ct 2).
 - 2 Touch or lift L in front of R (ct 1); step L back in place (ct 2).
 - 3 Touch or lift R in front of L (ct 1); step R fwd in LOD (ct 2).
 - 4-15 Repeat meas 1-3 four times.

Presented by Joseph Kaloyanides Graziosi