

KARSILAMÁS (ANTIKRYSTÓS)

(MACEDONIA, GREECE)

Source: This is a dance which is done in the villages of Macedonia, and it is also done in the city taverns. It is a cpl dance and the name means "face to face." (Karsilamás is the Turkish word, Antikrystós is the Greek word.) "Face to face" refers to the starting position of the dance.

Music: 9/8 time. Any good Karsilamás melody can be used. Some of the popular tunes are:

"Oti Káno Tis Axízei" Nina LP-61
 "Marinélla"
 "Rampí - Rampí"
 "Apópse Óla Eínai Yiá Séna"

Formation: M and W facing each other. The arms can be stretched out at shoulder height; the W can have her hands on her hips. The M can have one arm out and one hand behind his back. Both the M and W can have one hand on hip and one hand waving a handkerchief. The W may hold a handkerchief in both hands (holding opp corners), and move the handkerchief in front of her face teasingly.

Characteristics: This is a flirtatious, fun dance. The steps are small and smooth. You should not be too far from your partner. It is also improvisational. There is no set pattern. The rhythm is 9/8 and is broken down into four counts:

9/8  (1, 2, 3, 4+)
 9/8 quick, quick, quick, slow
 9/8 short, short, short, long

I will describe the dance steps in terms of the four counts.

<u>Meas</u>	<u>cts</u>	<u>Pattern</u>
<u>BASIC STEP RIGHT</u>		
I	1	Step sdwd to the R on the R ft.
	2	Step across in front of R ft on L ft.
	3	Step sdwd to the R on R ft.
	4+	Hop twice on the R ft, swinging L ft in front of R.
<u>BASIC STEP LEFT</u>		
II	1	Step sdwd to the L on L ft.
	2	Step across in front of the L ft on R ft.
	3	Step sdwd to the L on L ft.
	4+	Hop twice on L ft, swinging the R ft in front of L.

These steps should be small, and the two partners should never be far apart. The Basic step can also be done fwd or bkwd. It is not necessary to dance only one meas fwd and one meas bkwd; you may dance as many meas fwd or bkwd as pleases you.

The Karsilamás is an improvisational dance and so there should be no choreography except for exhibition purposes, perhaps. Each couple dances the steps and variations as their mood tells them. I will, therefore, describe some of the most common types of variations and leave it to the dancers to do them as the Greeks do them: Creativel and Improvisationally.

VARIATION (Turn)

Do the Basic step to the R, doing one complete turn to the R as you step R, L, R, ending with the L ft swinging across in front of the R. (You should end facing your partner). The turn can then be done in reverse, moving to the L.

VARIATION (Forward and Back)

Do one Basic step fwd toward your partner, and then one Basic step bkwd away from your partner. If you wish, you may do two Basic steps fwd and bkwd.

VARIATION (Cross Over and Back)

Do two Basic steps fwd, passing R shoulders with your partner. You end with your backs facing. Do two Basic steps bkwd, again passing R shoulders to end in a face-to-face position once more.

If you wish, you may make this a "do sa do" and return by passing L shoulders as you do the two Basic steps bkwd.



VARIATION (M on Squat)

M do the Basic step as described, except on ct 4 (the long ct) do a deep knee bend with back straight and knees together. You may clap as you do the squat.

VARIATION (Men Slap Foot)

M do Basic step described above, but instead of swinging the L leg low in front of R ft, lift the L leg straight with the L ft high in front of you and slap the inside of L ft with the R hand. When you do this step to the L, kick R ft high and slap it with the L hand.

VARIATION (M Slap Foot)

M do Basic step described above, but instead of swinging the L leg in front of the R ft, lift the L ft and slap it on the outside with the L hand. When you do the step to the L, lift the R ft and slap it with the R hand.

VARIATION (M follow W)

This is a flirtatious step. The W do the Basic step bkwd several times following a serpentine pattern. The men do the Basic step fwd, following (or chasing) their ptrs.

I have described seven variations of the Basic step for Karsilamás. I have not numbered them on purpose. Numbering implies a numerical progression. There is no progression meant here. There is no pattern, no choreography, and except for exhibition purposes, there should be no set pattern. Since this dance is improvisational, there are many more variations that may be done. As you can see, all variations evolve from the Basic step. There is no floor pattern: that is, couples should not be in a circle or in contra formation. Couples should be scattered around the floor -- all couples should be dancing freely -- it is not necessary that all couples be doing the same variations at the same time. Ideally, everyone should be dancing their own steps without reference to other couples on the floor.

The important thing is to dance with your partner in close communication so that you can together improvise within the framework of the dance. And this is a flirtatious love dance -----

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