

Paraliakós

Greek dance learned from Giorgios Lelakis (well-known Cretan dance teacher.) “Paraliakos” (“pah-rah-lee-ah-KOHSS”) means “by the seaside” and Giorgios calls the dance “the beach dance.” Giorgios mentions that the dance resembles dances like “Gaitenaki rodou.” The melody is sometimes referred to as “Vratsera,” a type of boat mentioned in the song text.

MUSIC: “Vratsera,” tape made for me by Giorgios Lelakis

RHYTHM: 2/4

FORMATION: Long curved line.

HANDHOLD: Either front baskethold (right arm under, left arm over) or low handhold.

STYLE: Gentle, swaying.

METER: 2/4	PATTERN
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count: steps:

1 & 2, 3 Facing slightly and moving to the R: step on L ft in front of R (1), step on ball of R ft to R (&), step on L ft in front of R (2), step and sway on R ft to the R, turning body slightly to the L (3).

4, 5 Step and sway on the L ft to the L, turning body slightly to the R (4), step straight fwd into the center on the R ft (5).

6 & 7, 8 Step diag bkwd to the L on the ball of the L ft (6), close and step (a small “jump”) on the R ft next to the L (&), step on L ft crossed behind R (and “push off” from R ft) (7), step on R ft to the R (8).

(Steps 5, 6 & 7 together describe a backwards “D” floor pattern.)

Even though the dance steps og in a regular 8-count pattern, the music is, for the most part not in phrases of 8, so the dance phrase and the music phrase do not coincide. As a result you could begin anywhere you want in the music (as long as it is on the count and not the offbeat!) Another consequence of this non-concurrence is that you could (theoretically) begin the dance at any point in the dance phrase. I begin as Giorgios did, as he is my original source for this dance.

Paraliakos song text:

Pote tha nixome pania / na katso sto timoni, **(2X)**

Na do tis Leros ta vouna / na moudiathoun i poni? **(2X)**

A-ah, vratsera mou ella yia tho / pou'echo dyo loyia na sou po.

Ximerose, Anatoli / to kosmo na fotisi, **(2X)**

Ke ti vratsera pou'erchete / na tin kalosorisi. **(2X)**

A-ah, paï o brouzos sta fountari / kio keros de sioundari.

Pafse Vouria mou na fisas / ta kimata n'afrosis, **(2X)**

Ke ti vratsera pou'erchete / na mi ti foverisis. **(2X)**

A-ah, paï o brouzos sta fountari / ke tou spasi to kontari.

O-oh....

TRANSLATION:

When will we set sail / so I can sit at the tiller,

So I can see the mountains of Leros / so that my pains will subside?

A-ah, my little fishing boat come here / since I have something to tell you.

Bring the dawn, oh Eastern Sky / and shine your light on the world,

And welcome my little fishing boat that is approaching.

A-ah, the breeze is getting stronger / and the weather is not subsiding.

Oh North Wind stop blowing / and making foam on the waves,

And do not frighten my little fishing boat that is approaching.

A-ah, the breeze is getting stronger / and it will break the mast.

O-oh....

Dance notes by Lee Otterholt.

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