

Tsirigótikos

Greece

Tsirigótikos (“tsi-ree-GHOH-tee-kohs”) is a syrto from the Ionic island of Kytherá. A faster and more energetic version is done on the Cyclades islands.

RHYTHM: 4/4

FORMATION: Open circle, leader on R. Shoulderhold. “T”

STYLE: Sedate.

METER 4/4

PATTERN

Meas

I. FIRST FIGURE (Basic step – on verse)

- 1 Facing slightly R and moving to the R: step on R ft back and to the R (1), step on L twd ctr in front of R (&), repeat (2&), step on R ft to R (3), lift L ft very low in front of R ft (&), turning slightly L of ctr, step on L ft to L (4), lift R ft very low in front of L (&).
- 2 Repeat meas 1

II. SECOND FIGURE (fancy step – on refrain)

- 1 Repeat cts 1&2& of Fig 1 (1&2&), turning to face slightly L of ctr, small leap onto R ft to R while bringing L ft to position lifted behind R ft (3), step to L on ball of L ft (&), step on R ft crossed in front of L (a), step on L ft to L (4), lift R ft very low in front of L (&).
- 2 Repeat meas 1.

Cyclades version of Tsirigotikos (faster music – more energetic dancing)

I. FIRST FIGURE (Basic step – “walking” – on verse)

- 1 Facing diag R and moving to the R: walk 5 steps forward (1&2&3), lift L leg fairly high in front of R, knee slightly bent (&), turning diag L of ctr, step on L ft to L (4), lift R leg fairly high in front of L, knee slightly bent (&).
- 2 Repeat meas 1

III. SECOND FIGURE (fancy step – on refrain)

- 1 Twisting lower body slightly L of ctr, take wt on both feet, about 1 foot apart (1), hop on R ft (&), step on L ft crossed in front of R, lower body is now twisted slightly R of ctr (a), repeat 1&a (2&a), turning to face slightly L of ctr, small leap onto R ft to R while bringing L ft to position lifted behind R ft, knees close together (3), step to L on ball of L ft (&), step on R ft crossed in front of L (a), step on L ft to L (4), lift R ft in front of L (&).
- 2-4 Repeat meas 1 3 more times. (As long as the refrain is played/sung.)

Leader could repeat each figure as many times as he or she pleases, but generally the transitions follow the music so that the more energetic 2nd figure coincides with the more energetic part of the music (the refrain).

Dance notes by Lee Otterholt

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Kythira (Greek: alternative spellings Kithira, Kythera, Cythera), also known as Cerigo (alternative spelling Tsirigo) is an island of Greece, historically part of the Ionian Islands. It lies opposite the eastern tip of the Peloponnesos peninsula. It has an area of 284 km². The rugged terrain is a result of prevailing winds from the surrounding seas which have shaped its shores into steep rocky cliffs with deep bays. For many centuries, while naval travel was the only means for transportation, the island possessed a strategic location. Since the ancient times, until the mid 19th century, Kythira had been a crossroads of merchants, sailors, and conquerors. As such, it has had a long and varied history and has been influenced by a plethora of civilisations and cultures. This is reflected in its architecture (a blend of traditional, Aegean and Venetian elements), as well as the traditions and customs, influenced by centuries of coexistence of the Greek, Venetian and British civilisations as well as its numerous visitors