

MANDINADES

(Greece)

SOURCE: Mandinades was originally described by Theodore Petrides, formerly with the Royal Greek Festival Company “Panegyros.” It was modified by Chris Tasulis based on his observing Cretan, Cycladian and Dodecanese families in the Los Angeles area. Chris introduced it at the California Folk Dance Federation Statewide Institute in 1959. It was introduced in Austin, Texas in the 1960’s. The variation in Kariotikos was taught by Johnny Pappas at Texas Folk Dance Camp in 1972 and 1975.

NOTES: *Mandinades* is derived from the Venetian word *matinada* (“morning song”). Mandinades are spontaneous songs and dances expressing love or satire and are as ancient as the Syrtos. There are hundreds of known Mandinades. A versatile dancer and singer will often compose his own distich (couplet or two lines of verse making a complete thought) as he dances and in sympathy with the mood of the occasion. Each island has a unique series of Mandinades characteristic of the island group’s inhabitants. The dance described here is typical of the islands in the Aegean Sea, but is not confined to any single island group. It includes Kastrinos (Heraklion/Heraclion/Iraklion/Eraklion, the capital of the island of Crete) (sometimes referred to as Kastro), Sousta (island of Rhodes, Dodecanese island group) and Kariotikos or Ikariotikos (island of Icaria/Ikaria; also Cyclades/Kyklades island group).

TUNES: Fez 706, A or B – “Sousta” (2/4 rhythm).

FORMATION: Lines of four or five persons, hands on near shoulders. The leader, at the right end, waves a handkerchief at will. The person at the left end keeps their left hand or fist at the small of their back. Dancers face center throughout the dance.

Meas Pattern

KASTRINOS

- 1 Do one pas de basque slightly forward, beginning with R foot and stepping lightly on L heel.
- 2 Do one pas de basque slightly forward, beginning with L foot and stepping lightly on R heel.
- 3 Step-hop forward on R foot, L foot slightly behind with toe down and thigh slightly lifted.
- 4 Step-hop forward on L foot, R foot slightly behind with toe down and thigh slightly lifted.
- 5 Step-hop backward on R foot, L foot slightly behind with toe down and thigh slightly lifted.
- 6 Do one pas de basque slightly backward, beginning with L foot and stepping lightly on R heel.
- 7 Do one pas de basque slightly backward, beginning with R foot and stepping lightly on L heel.
- 8 Step on L foot (ct 1); lift R foot slightly in front and thrust R heel diagonally forward to L, heel down and a few inches from the floor, toe pointed up, knee straight (ct 2).

SOUSTA (springy action of a carriage driven over a rocky road)

- 1 Leap forward onto R foot (ct 1); hop on R foot (ct 2); step diagonally forward L onto L foot (ct &).
 - 2 Step diagonally forward to R onto R foot (ct 1); step diagonally forward to L onto L foot (ct 2); step diagonally forward to R onto R foot (ct &).
 - 3 Step on L foot in place (ct 1); hop on R foot, L foot slightly behind, toe down, thigh slightly lifted.
- 4-6 Repeat Meas. 1-3 moving backward.

KARIOTIKOS

- 1 Step on R foot in place (ct 1); hop on R foot in place (ct 2); step on L foot behind R foot (ct &).
- 2 Step slightly R onto R foot (ct 1); step slightly L onto L foot (ct 2); step R foot next to L foot (ct &).
- 3 Step forward heavily onto L foot (ct 1); step backward onto R foot (ct 2); step on L foot next to R foot (ct &).

(alternate Kariotikos pattern, meas. 2-3)

- 2 Step slightly to R onto R foot (ct 1); step slightly to L onto L foot (ct 2); step on R foot across in front of L foot (ct &).
- 3 Step on L foot across in front of R foot (ct 1); swing R foot across in front of L foot (ct 2).

TRANSITION STEP (Kariotikos to Kastrinos)

- 1-2 Do meas. 1-2 of Kariotikos.
- 3 Step forward heavily onto L foot (ct 1); hop on L foot (ct 2).
- 4 Step forward onto R foot (ct 1); hop on R foot (ct 2).