

# GERAKINA

(Greece)

**SOURCE** *Gerakina* (Geh-rah-KEE-NAH) is a girl's name. There are a number of dance patterns to the music. Greeks often do a Kalamatianos or Syrtos, although the rhythm for the most commonly used recording is specific to a Kalamatianos. Recreational folk dancers have done two slightly different versions of this dance. The version described here is based on the version presented by Anatol Joukowsky at the Pacific Folk Dance Camp in 1954. It was subsequently introduced to Texas by Bob Allison at the 1954 Texas Camp and taught again by Win Hirschmann at the 1963 Texas Camp.

**FORMATION** Open circle of dancers with hands joined, right supporting left (position of hands and arms varies during the dance). The leader is at the right end and may extend their arm to the right and/or hold a handkerchief in that hand. Dancers face diagonally to the right and the circle moves to the right.

**STYLING** The dance begins quiet and restrained, i.e., there is no lift or hop in the first figure and the steps are not large. As the dance progresses, the men may dance with more vigor and momentum. The women retain the initial style but may lift higher on the balls of the feet and also make a strong sweep with the left leg in the first measure of the dance. Turns are sharp. Dancers look straight out during all figures except the second one, when then look slightly down. When touching and pivoting the R toe by the L foot, the rotation is from the knees, not the hips.

**RECORDINGS** Folkways FW 6814, side I, band 3, *Songs and Dances of Greece* (10" LP); Amazon MP3 Store download; Victor 26-8220B (78rpm); Liberty 84A (78rpm); Folkraft 1060 (45rpm); National 459-B (45rpm).

**RHYTHM** 7/8, counted 1-and-ah, 2-and, 3-and or slow, quick, quick.

<u>Meas</u>	<u>Ct</u>	
		<b>PART I</b> (Music C, C) (L arm extended diagonally forward to the left at shoulder height, R upper arm extended to the right at shoulder height, R forearm supporting the extended L arm of the dancer to the right)
1	1	Step diagonally forward to R onto R foot.
	&	Lift or hop slightly on R foot (omitted first time through dance).
	2	Step onto L foot across in front of R foot.
	3	Step sideways to R onto R foot.
2	1	Step onto L foot across and behind R foot.
	2-3	Point R toe in place with R heel over L foot.
3-8		Repeat Meas. 1-2 three more times.
		<b>PART II</b> (Music A, B) (hands joined down at sides)
9	1	Step to R onto R foot.
	2	Step to R onto L foot.
	3	Step to R onto R foot.
10	1	Step to R onto L foot.
	2	Touch R toe to floor beside L heel, turning R heel out
	3	Touch R toe to floor beside L heel, turning R heel in
11		Repeat Meas. 9.
12	1	Step to R onto L foot.
	2-3	Turning to face center, touch R toe beside L foot.
13-14		Repeat Meas. 9-10 moving forward and raising hands to shoulder height.
15	1	Moving backward, step onto R foot with slightly bent R knee, touching floor with L toe in front of R foot.
	2	Moving backward, step onto L foot.
	3	Moving backward, step onto R foot.
16		Repeat Meas. 15, moving backward with opposite footwork.

**Part III (MUSIC C)**

- 17    1    Touch R toe to floor beside L heel, turning R heel out  
      2    Touch R toe to floor beside L heel, turning R heel in  
      3    Touch R toe to floor beside L heel, turning R heel out
- 18    1    Touch R toe to floor beside L heel, turning R heel in  
      2-3   Releasing hands, leaving L arm extended forward, palm forward with fingers closed and pointing up and R arm bent and behind back, lift R leg with knee bent and heel in front of L knee.
- 19    1    Step onto R foot slightly to R, turning CW.  
      &    Lift slightly on R foot while continuing to turn CW.  
      2    Step onto L foot while continuing to turn CW.  
      3    Step onto R foot while continuing to turn CW.
- 20    1    Step onto L foot in place, stopping turn to face center.  
      2-3   Rejoin hands as in Part I and point R toe in place with R heel over L foot.

Dance notes compiled May 10, 2014, by Franklin Houston based on personal instruction and on notes from the Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc. (North) <<http://www.folkdance.com/LDNotations/Gerakina1954LD.pdf>> and from the Evansville International Folk Dancers <<http://evansvillefolk dancers.com/resources/Notes/G/Gerakina%20DN.pdf>>.