

VALENCIAN SYRTOS

Chor. Paul Boizot, 2013, based on Greek Syrtos steps. Music "Nikita I Estelis" from "U" by L'Ham De Foc, who sing in Valencian, a close relation of Catalan. The question of whether Valencian is a dialect of Catalan or a separate language seems to be politically charged! "Mediterranean folk music, including their own Valencian music, Greek music and also music from India or Northern Africa, are main influences for L'Ham de Foc." (source; http://worldmusiccentral.org/artists/artist_page.php?id=341). Mp3 available on Amazon.co.uk *.

Arms W. Formation; open circle. Rhythm 2/4, two steps per beat except where marked "slow" (= 1 beat). Dance rhythm is slow-quick-quick throughout. I start after 11 bars with the singing, but as the dance crosses the music you can start at the beginning of any bar.

↷ → sR slow, Lxb, sR; ↷ → L slow, R, L; R slow, ↷ ← L, ↷ → R (with some knee flexion especially on those 3 steps); ↷ ← sL slow, Rxf, replace L.

I aim to stay facing centre as much as possible on steps 1 to 3 and 9 to 12, rather than letting those steps be ironed out into steps done more facing diagonally left, so that the first two or three steps would almost become backwards steps.

Alternatively, you can do any Greek Syrtos steps that you feel fit the music. This is a common basic Syrtos;

↷ → sR slow, Lxb, sR; ↷ → L slow, R, L; ↷ → sR slow, facing a little diag. right of centre forward L or Lxf, replace R; step backwards L slow slightly diag. to left, replace R or step fwd. right, cl.L or step L slightly fwd. of right.

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