

GREEK FOLK DANCES

The two dances that we learned were called Sirtaki, and Chasapiko. In Greek they are spelled as: ΣΥΡΤΑΚΙ and ΧΑΣΑΠΙΚΟ



There are three different types of holding hands in Greek folk dances.

1. The **W** (loose elbows – holding hands)
2. The **T** (holding on to each other's shoulders)
3. The **X** (holding on to every other person)

Both of the dances that we learned used the **T** formation

Sirtaki is a dance that:

1. accelerates to fit the music
2. starts with a step to the right
3. is performed in a circle
4. was first performed in the movie “Zorba the Greek” (1964)
5. was choreographed based on steps from Chasapiko

In Greek, Chasapiko means butcher shop and as a dance it is one of few folk dances that is fully choreographed from the beginning to the end. This is one of the reasons that it is not often performed in social settings!

The version of Chasapiko that we learned was a snippet of the full choreography that included the most basic and characteristic steps.

If you would like to watch videos of the dances that we learned search for the following titles on youtube:

- Zorba the Greek <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UPiCaQ88-Js>
- ΧΑΣΑΠΙΚΟ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jzR9aoNo7Bs>