

# MITERITSA

## Pontic Greek

PRONUNCIATION: mee-teh-REET-sah

TRANSLATION: Little mother

SOURCE: Dick Oakes learned this dance from John Pappas, who taught it at the 1976 Folk Dance Symposium, the 1975 Texas Camp, and the 1979 Idyllwild Folk Dance Workshop. It is described in *Elliniki Hori*, by V. PLalpahristos (Athens, 1960) and *Greek Folk Dances*, by M. Vouras and R. Holden (New Jersey, 1965).

BACKGROUND: Miteritsa, both a dance and a game for children and adults, is danced by the Greeks from Pontos. Pontic Greeks are originally from the Black Sea area who were evicted by the Turks after over two thousand years of living in the area. This dance-game, reminiscent of America's Virginia Reel, is not native to the Pontics, however, and was probably imported from Russia.

MUSIC: Folk Dancer (45rpm) MH 4025

FORMATION: With hands joined and held down in "V" pos, a group of 8 to 10 M are together at the R end of an open cir, and a group of 8 to 10 W are together at the L end of the open cir. The lead W holds the last M hand.

METER/RHYTHM: 4/4

STEPS/STYLE: The style is happy and lively with much hand clapping and obvious enjoyment. During Fig I, there may be a slight stamp on the R as the knee makes slight flexion, and there may be more of a flexion of the L knee as weight is taken on the L.

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### MEAS

### MOVEMENT DESCRIPTION

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#### INTRODUCTION

1-4 On recommended recording, the orchestra tunes up for three measures, then there are 4 meas introduction without action.

#### I. WALK RIGHT AND LEFT

1 Facing slightly and moving R in LOD, step R (ct 1); step L next to R (ct 2); step R (ct 3); step L next to R (ct 4);

2-4 Repeat action of meas 1 three more times, turning to face to the L on the last step;

5-8 Repeat action of meas 1-4 in opp dir but with same ftwk.

#### II. M ELBOW REEL WITH W

1-8

All dancers release hands and clap as the lead M skips over to the other end of the line with hop-steps and, choosing any W, hooks R elbows. This cpl skips CW for one meas and, hooking L elbows, skips CCW for one meas.

The lead M then continues on to another W and repeats the same CW/CCW turning with her as the first W chosen returns to her orig place. The lead M continues this reeling with other ptrs leaving enough time to skip back to his orig place before the next 8 meas begin.

Repeat the entire dance from beg except that the first W chosen now skips across (instead of a M) and selects any M ptr of her choosing and dances the reel as did the lead M before.

On the next repeat of the dance, the M chosen on the first repeat now skips across, and so on and so on.

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MITERITSA  
Pontic Greece

Pronounce th as in that.

/ Miteritsa mou glikia,  
thelo mia 'gapitikia /  
/ Mavramatia ke megala,  
zimomena me to gala. /

Sweet mother,  
I want a loved one,  
With eyes dark and large  
and beautiful skin.

/ Ithela na'rtho to vradi,  
m'epiase psili vrohi /  
/ To Theo parakalousa,  
yia na se vro monahi. /

I wanted to come to you last night.  
A light rain caught me.  
I asked God to let you be alone  
when I found you.