

Chikulata Chikita

(Popular Modern Balkan Song)

This is a popular song in many Balkan languages (this version is in Greek), and is danced in the style of *Chochek*. Susan Kotansky choreographed this dance using steps and gestures commonly found in weddings throughout the Southern Balkans and Western Turkey.

Pronunciation: CHI-koo-LAH-tah chi-kee-TAH
Formation: Open circle with "W" hold
Music: 2/4
Introduction: 8 measures of music

Meas Figure 1 (Common 3 Measure Basic)

- 1 Facing slightly R of center, step R fwd (ct 1), step L fwd to R (ct 2)
Note: Step is upbeat and somewhat bouncy
- 2 Turning to face center, step R to R side (ct 1), step L behind R (ct 2), step R in place (ct &) (slow, quick, quick)
- 3 Reverse footwork and direction of meas 2
- 4-9 Repeat meas 1-3 two more times
- 10-11 Repeat meas 1-2
- 12 Turning left (CCW), step L to L to initiate full turn (ct 1), step R over L continuing to turn (ct 2), step L beside R to finish turn (ct &)
- 13 Step R in place beside L (ct 1), step L in place (ct 2)

Figure 2 (Right and Left with Finger Flick)

- 1 Moving in LOD, with hands held about chest/shoulder level, step R heel to R, bending wrists and flicking fingers out to R (ct 1), close L to R (ct &), step R heel to R flicking fingers out to R again (ct 2), close L to R (ct &)
- 2 Step R heel to R flicking fingers (ct 1), close L to R (ct &), step R to R (ct 2)
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opposite footwork moving to RLOD
- 5-8 Repeat action of meas 1-4

Figure 3 (Forward and Shimmy)

- 1 Facing center and moving twd center, step R fwd (ct 1), step L fwd (ct 2)
Note: Hands are not joined, and dancers may clap on ct 1 and ct 2
- 2 Step R to R keeping wt on both feet (leaning to R) and facing slightly diagonally to L, shimmy shoulders with arms out to sides (cts 1-2)
- 3 Repeat meas 2 with opposite footwork and direction
- 4-6 Repeat meas 1-3 moving backwards away from center
- 7-12 Repeat meas 1-6

Figure 4 (Gaida)

- 1 Facing slightly R of center, step R fwd (ct 1), step L fwd to R (ct 2)
- 2 Turning to face center, step R to R (ct 1), Lift L knee up (ct 2)
- 3 Repeat meas 2 with opposite footwork
- 4 Repeat meas 2
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 with opposite footwork
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8

Ending

- 1-12 Do Figure 1, measures 1-3, 4 times
- 13-end Big step R fwd, step L fwd next to R (2 drum beats). Step R to R, close L to R (2 drum beats). Step L to L, close R to L (2 drum beats).

Sequence: Figs 1-3 2x, Fig 1, Fig 4, Fig 1 (meas 1-12), Fig 3, Ending

Presented by Stephen Kotansky