

Joe Kaloyanides Graziosi

Greek Dance and Culture

Forward by Kathy Sandstrom

Story by Joe Kaloyanides Graziosi



The meat of the the following article is by Joe, with edits by EEFC. I note in the article that it is reprinted with permission by Joe and EEFC.

May 9-11, 2025 is the Lyrids Folk Dance Festival just east of Vancouver, BC. We are featuring Joe Kaloyanides Graziosi and Zeljko Jergan as our teachers. We hope you'll come!

Today we celebrate Joe! With permission of Joe and EEFC (Eastern European Folklife Center), we are reprinting an article about Joe that is posted on the EEFC website. The text and photos come from Joe himself.

In addition to all the wonderful things Joe has done, he recently did a very kind favor for me for a long time Oregon folkdancer, Anna Penk. Anna is an elderly Greek lady who used to live in Salem, and now lives in Portland near her son. I recently spoke with her and she asked if I had any Greek gaida music. I don't, but said I thought I could find some. I emailed Joe right away and asked if he could direct me to some CDs. He didn't have any, but kindly provided me with a bunch of links to great music. I then forwarded them to Anna's son so he could play them for his mother.

Now here is Joe's story, in his own words.

Joseph Kaloyanides Graziosi was born and raised in the greater Boston area. Of Greek and Italian ancestry, Joe was exposed at an early age to Greek music and dance through both family contacts and participation in Greek American social and cultural events. He received a B.A. (cum laude) in History from Brandeis University in 1976. In 1979 he moved to New York City and later, after a few years in the San



Joe dancing at a wedding, Drama, Greece, 2010.

Francisco Bay Area starting in 1996, he moved back east to live on Cape Cod, where he currently resides.

Joe began his formal pursuit of the study, documentation and promulgation of traditional Greek dance in 1975 during a semester-abroad program in Athens where he worked with the noted folklorist, Ted Petrides. Since then, he has done extensive independent research in folk music and dance in Greece, the former Greek areas of the Anatolian Peninsula, and the Greek American communities in New England and New York. He has compiled an exhaustive library of scholarly research as well as a comprehensive video library and musical archive. Concurrent with his research he has danced for and advised several Greek American performing groups

In 1982, under the sponsorship of the National Endowment for the Arts and the Ethnic Folk Arts Center, he directed the Greek Music Tour, composed of highly esteemed practitioners of traditional music from both Greece and the immigrant community in the States who performed throughout the Northeastern U.S. In conjunction with the tour, he was principal editor and author of an accompanying booklet on Greek music, dance and instrumentation, as well as advisor to studio recordings now archived in the New York City-based Center for Traditional Arts. Joe, along with the late Paul Ginis, co-founded the Greek American Folklore Society



Joe dancing with his father and family at his sister's wedding.

(GAFS) in Astoria, NY, where he taught throughout the 80s. Since 1984, he has taught traditional folk and urban dances of the Greek peoples for various organizations throughout the U.S. and Canada, including at major dance camps, weekend seminars and retreats for both professional and amateur dance troupes as well as for social clubs, community and church groups and folk-dance organizations throughout the U.S., including Hawaii and Alaska. In 1990, Joe was invited to teach Greek dance in Japan and Taiwan and returned to Japan in 2017 for his twelfth visit.

He has also introduced people to Greek dance in Switzerland, Germany, the Netherlands, England, and Brazil; and last year, for the first time, in Mexico. He has been a guest lecturer on Greek dance and music for the ethnomusicology departments of the Universities of California Los Angeles and Santa Barbara (UCLA and