

GREEK TEACHER AT LYRIDS FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL 2025

Lori Larsen and Kathy Sandstrom, Corvallis, Oregon

The 11th Lyrids Folk Dance Festival will happen May 9–11 at Pitt Meadows Heritage Hall, an hour drive east of Vancouver, B.C. Our guest artists are Željko Jergan, presenting Croatian dances, and Dimitrios Kontogiannis, presenting Greek dances. We are very excited to welcome Dimitrios Kontogiannis, a Greek specialist from Vancouver to teach at Lyrids 2025!



Dimitrios (aka Dimitris, Dimitri) Kontogiannis was born and raised in Greece and began learning traditional Greek dance at the age of 12. He danced with several groups while growing up in Greece and also participated in several European dance tours. It was at a young age that he also developed a passion for researching the historical dances, songs, and customs of traditional Greek

culture, and he has continued his keen interest in this type of research up to the present.

After moving to Canada in his early 20s, Dimitris began teaching Greek dance classes to both children and adults. Now, some 40 years later, he is a prominent figure in the Greek dance community. He serves as the director and dance instructor for the Zéfyros Hellenic Dance Society in Vancouver, B.C.

Dimitris continues his passion for preserving and sharing Greece's rich dance culture and heritage. His expertise in Greek dance, culture, and traditions has led him to be a guest teacher at several seminars and dance festivals in Canada and the United States, including *balkanalia!* in Oregon. Dimitris often takes part in judging at FDF (Greek

Orthodox Folk Dance and Choral Festival) and frequently works with some of the dance groups participating in these competitions. He has produced two theatrical presentations, and his dance groups appear regularly at local Greek festivals and community events.

Dimitris continues to be active in researching traditional Greek dance, as well as having a strong interest in costume research and reproduction. In both his research and his teaching, Dimitris is dedicated to doing his part in preserving traditional dances from all regions of Greece.

Dimitris has a wonderful display of Greek costumes and clothing from his extensive collection. The clothing and accessories are mainly handmade originals, handed down through the generations. Some of Dimitri's costumes will be part of the "Treasures from Greece" display and presentation at this year's Lyrids Folk Dance Festival.

The Treasures from Greece presentation will include costumes, jewelry, textiles, instruments, artwork, and more.

Please join us at our fragrance-free festival. Info: lyridsfolkdancefestival.org.

