

Mavromata

(Greek)

Mavromata is a Greek dance learned by Dick von der Zwan from a group of Greek immigrants from Thrace living in Germany. I learned the dance from him in the 1980s. The title means “the dark-eyed girl.”

Pronunciation: mahv-roh-MAH-tah

Music: “Mavromata” CD: *Balkan and Beyond, Greek Dances*, Band 2. 4/4 meter

Formation: Open circle. Hands joined in back-basket hold. Front-basket hold (R arm under, L over) can be substituted if the back-basket hold is uncomfortable.

Styling: Bounce twice on every count, that is, on the count and on the “&.” except counts 9 & 10. Begin dance on any musical phrase.

Cts

Pattern

1-10 Facing slightly R of ctr and moving R (LOD), step on R to R (ct 1); step on L across in front of R ft (ct 2); turning to face slightly L of ctr, step on R to R (ct 3); bounce twice on R ft, L heel placed near R ankle (cts 4,&); turning to face slightly R of ctr, step on L to L (ct 5); bounce twice on L ft, R heel placed near L ankle (cts 6,&); turning to face slightly L of ctr, step on R to R (ct 7); bounce once on R ft, L heel placed near R ankle (ct 8); step bkwd on ball of L ft, away from ctr (ct &); facing slightly and moving to the R, step on ball of R ft to R (ct 9); step on L across in front of R ft (ct &); repeat cts 9, & (cts 10,&).

Repeat pattern until end of music.

Dance notes by Lee Otterholt

Presented by Lee Otterholt

Song Lyrics:

Aryia ke pou yia na vrethi / mavromata ke xanthi.
 Ego ti vrika, vre pedia, / etho konta sti yitonia. (2X)
 Ke'apo to parthiro mou / leme loyia trifera,
 Perno ke k'ana filaki / kapou, kapou petachta. (2X)
 Tis manoulas mou to ipa / tha ti paro dichos prika.
 Ti ta thelo ta chorafia / pros sta dyo tis mavra matia? (2X)

Translation:

Although it took me a while, / I found a blond-haired girl with black eyes.
 I found her, my friends, / here next to my neighbor's house.
 And from my window / we speak tender words to each other,
 And I steal a kiss from her / quickly every now and then.
 I've told my mother / that I will marry her without a dowry.
 Why do I need growing fields / when I have her two beautiful black eyes?