

Simd - Симд

(Ossetia, Georgia)

This dance is from the Republic of South Ossetia, which is within the borders of Georgia. Though it is not recognized as an independent country by most of the world, the Ossetians do not consider themselves Georgian. Georgians call this region Osseti. The Ossetian language is an Indo-European language related to Iranian but not to Georgian and other Caucasian languages or to Russian. Nowadays, Ossetians write their language in an adapted form of Cyrillic and do not use the Georgian script.

Simd is one of the most famous dances from Oseti because of its grace and beautiful patterns on the dance floor. The dance is done in couples where the man accompanies the woman by guiding her across the floor. Both wear costumes with very long sleeves so the bodies would not touch during the dance, as this would be inappropriate.

During the dance, each man looks at his partner with much expression, but the woman must not look the man in the eye, but instead should be humble and introverted.

The footwork of this dance is one basic step which the dancers use to create patterns on the dance floor.

Pronunciation: SEEMD

Translation: Unknown

Music: 2/4 meter

Georgian Folk Music and Dances 2017, Track 8

Formation: Circle of cpls facing CCW, W standing on M's R. Arms are held away from the body with elbows slightly bent. The M's R lower arm supports W's L arm.

Steps & Styling: Basic Step. Beg R, three steps fwd on the balls of ft, QQS (cts 1, 2, 1); hold (ct 2). Repeat with opp ftwk (cts 1, 2, 1, 2).

Arms for M: Arms gradually go up to a position where the L lower arm is horizontal with the fist is in front of the opposite shldr, fingers closed and facing down. The R arm is down and slightly back (2 meas). Arms gradually exchange positions (2 meas).

Arms for W: With elbows slightly bent, lift the lower arm (from the wrist) with a very small movement (2 meas). Allow the arm to fall back to natural position fluidly (2 meas).

Meas 2/4 meter

Pattern

30 seconds plus 8 notes INTRODUCTION. No action. 30 seconds of slow music. Wait for 8 distinctive notes.

I. PATTERNS IN SPACE

Using the Basic Step, the cpl dance patterns around the dance room following a lead cpl.

Some examples:

Pattern 1. The leading cpl goes through the middle of the circle to create a straight line in the middle. When the leading cpl reaches the other end of the circle it may turn R and follow the circle line again, with the next cpl turning L, the next cpl turning R, etc. such that two groups of dancers are going in opposite directions.

Simd — continued

- Pattern 2 When the two first cpls of each group meet, they can connect to create a small straight line of 4 people (and the next 2 cpls do the same, etc). As small lines, they walk straight through the middle of the circle.
- When they reach the end they might split up again in cpls (1 cpl goes R, 1 cpl goes L).
- Pattern 3 When they meet they can go behind each other (1 from the R, 1 from the L, like a zipper) to create one line of couples.
- Pattern 4 Split the couples: M go L, W go R along the circle line. When they meet W may form an inner circle going CW while the M form an outer circle going CCW, or the cpls may cross each other diagonally, or zig-zag each other, all starting to the R (1 meas zig R, 1 meas zag L).
- Pattern 5 When the leading cpl meets again, they can reconnect again and follow the original circle or start a new pattern.

Presented by Caspar Bik