

Tai Tai

(Thessaly, Greece)

This is a specific *a cappella* song/dance from the village of Aidohonori in the mountains of southern Thessaly. It is performed only once a year, on Easter Monday, and signifies the end of the ritual aspect of the celebration of Easter. Joe Graziosi also taught this dance at Stockton Folk Dance Camp in 1990.

Pronunciation: TAHY TAHY

Translation: The dance takes its name from the accompanying song refrain and is a contraction of “t’a(i)nevene,” meaning “ascending.”

Music: 2/4 meter [Video](#)

Greek Dances Horos With Joe, Track 18 (chorus & instruments) and 19 (a capella)

Formation: Fig I: Open circle, alternating M and W. W arms down holding hands of the closest neighboring W, while M hold hands of the closest neighboring M. All M’s arms cross in front of W’s arms. Traditionally, a man stands at either end of the line of dances. The end dancers may optionally hold a handkerchief with the next dancer (instead of holding hands).



Fig II: M lift their joined hands up over the W and step back to form two concentric circles with M on an outside circle and W on an inside circle.



<u>Meas</u>	<u>2/4 meter</u>	<u>Pattern</u>
7 meas	<u>INTRODUCTION.</u> No action.	
	I. <u>ONE CIRCLE, ALTERNATING MEN AND WOMEN.</u>	
1	Facing slightly R of ctr, step L in front of R (ct 1); step R fwd (ct 2); step L slightly in front of R (ct &).	
2	Pivoting slightly to face ctr, step R to R (ct 1); swing L to R (ct &); step L back into place (ct 2); rock fwd onto R (ct &).	

3-14 Repeat meas 1-2 six times.

II. TWO CIRCLES, MEN BEHIND WOMEN.

See Formation above for how to change from Fig I to Fig II.

1 Step L slightly fwd, in front of R (ct 1); step R to R (ct 2).

2 Lift or touch L in front of R (ct 1); step L back in place (ct 2).

An alternative, especially the third and fourth times through, is a quick step L in front of R (ct 1) and a quick step back onto R (ct &).

3 Lift or touch R in front of L or next to and slightly behind L (ct 1); step R to R (ct 2).

4-12 Repeat meas 1-3 three times.

III. TRANSITION BACK TO FIG I.

1 Step L in front of R, M stepping fwd twd ctr (ct 1); step R to R (ct 2) as M bring arms above W and down in front of W to reform the single circle of dancers.

Sequence: With the chorus and instrumental version of the music, repeat the sequence above to end of music. The dance for this version starts with singing. With the a capella version, start on Fig I, meas 8 and repeat sequence to end of music.

Presented by Joe Graziosi

Tai Tai — continued

Lyrics

Literal Verse:

STIS ALEKSANDRAS TO VUNO KANIS DHE TANEVENI
KI I KORI PU TANEVENE PLEKONDAS TO GHAITANI
PLEKONDAS KE ANAPLEKONTAS KE PSILOTRAGHUDHONDAS

KI O HRISIKOS AGHNANDEVE APO TO PARATHIRI
AFTU SU STELNO KORI MU ENA SKARDHI METAKSI
NA FKIAKSIS BOLKES DHODHEKA KE DHEKA FUSTANELES

KYAN SAPOMINI TIPOTA FTYAKSE MYA SIREVETA
KI SIREVETA NAN GALA NAHI SARANDA FUNDES
PASA FUNDA NA KREMETE DHEKARIA KE KOSARIA

AFTU SU STELNO HRISIKE ENA DHRAMAKI ASIMI
NA FTYASIS KUPA KE STAVRO STAVRO KE DAHTILIDHI
KYAN SAPOMINI TIPOTA FTYAKSE KE MYA ARAVONA
KI ARAVONA NAN GALA NE HI SARANDA VULE [PULYES]

Literal Verse in sung form (only 1st stanza is shown here; other stanzas follow the same format):

STIS ALEKSANDRAS TO, VRE, TO VUNO
KANIS KANIS DHE TANEVENI (2x)

Alexandra's mountain,
No one, no one climbs it

KII KORI PU, TAI TAI MORE(M) BROS
MORE, VITI TIN, KII KORI PU TANEVENE (2x)

And the girl, tai tai oh forward
Oh vi ti ti, and the girl climbing it.

KII KORI PU TANE, TAVEVENE
PLEKO PLEKONDAS TO GHAITANI (2x)

And the girl climb, climbing it,
Plait, plaiting the braid,

PLEKONDAS KE, TAI TAI, MORE(M) BROS
MORE, VITI TIN, PLEKONDAS KI ANAPLEKONDAS (2x)

Plait, tai tai oh forward
Oh vi ti ti, plait-, plaiting the braid.

Plaiting and slowly plait,
Oh plaiting, and sing and singing
high
And sing, tai tai oh forward,
Oh vi ti ti, and sing, and singing
high.