

Mavromata

Greece

Mavromata ("Mahv-roh-MAH-tah") 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."

Rhythm: 4/4 meter; dance phrase does not fit the musical phrase.

Formation: Open circle.

Handhold: Back basket hold. Front basket hold (R arm under, L over) can be substituted if the back basket hold is uncomfortable.

Style: Bounce twice on every count, that is, on the count and on the "&."

COUNTS

PATTERN

Facing slightly R of ctr and moving R (LOD):

- 1 Step on R ft to R(1),
- 2 Step on L ft crossed in front of R ft (2),
- 3 Turning to face slightly L of ctr, step on R ft to R (3),
- 4 Bounce twice on R ft, L heel placed near R ankle (4&),
- 5 Turning to face slightly R of ctr, step on L ft to L (5),
- 6 Bounce twice on L ft, R heel placed near L ankle (6&),
- 7 Turning to face slightly L of ctr, step on R ft to R (7),
- 8 Bounce once on R ft, L heel placed near R ankle (8),
step on ball of L ft bkwds, away from ctr (&),
- 9 Facing slightly and moving to the R, step on ball of R ft to R (9),
step on L ft crossed in front of R ft (&),
- 10 Repeat cts 9& (10&).

Repeat pattern until end of music.

[1, and 2, and side, double bounce, side, double bounce, just one bounce, and, 1, 2, 3, 4]

MAVROMATA

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 triferá,

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?