

# CONTENTS

4	Introduction
5	About Greek Music
6	Melodies and Scales
10	Harmony and Chord Progressions
11	Greek Rhythms
13	Working with the Video Recording
13	Greek song arrangements for guitar
13	Zeybekiko
22	Syrtaki
28	Karsilamas
34	Tsamiko
41	To Papoutsi ton Tsankari (The Shoemaker's Shoe)
49	To Bouzouki Mou (My Bouzouki)
54	Epirus Dance
59	Thessaly Dance
64	Balkan Kalamatianos
69	Kastro Psilo o Erotas (High Castle of Love)
74	About the Author

# GREEK RHYTHMS

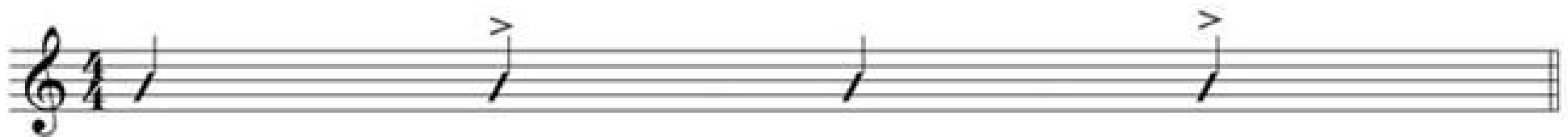
Rhythms in Greece are a constant party. For a musician from the West who has little experience with odd meters, Greek music will serve as excellent practice in this regard. We find odd meters like 5/8, 7/8, or 9/4, and even a simple 3/4 Tsamiko or 6/4 Tsikisto rhythm can become a lot of fun when we learn its typical performing patterns.

Many rhythms in Greek music have a cyclical character. This approach to rhythm is to be found all over the Eastern world, from India to Eastern Europe. The good news is the closer we get to the West, the less developed they are. So it becomes easier to learn and internalize them.

Here are a few rhythm patterns written down in a simple way to help you understand their basic feel.

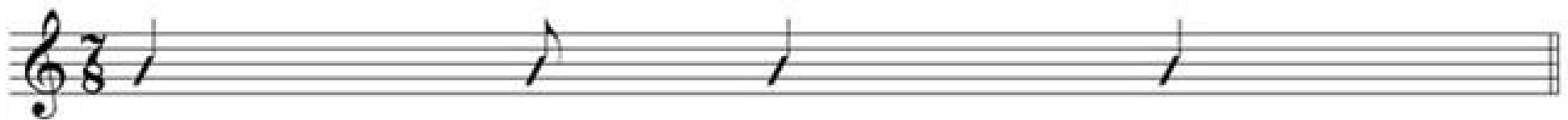
## Hasapikos Rhythm

Example 11



## Kalamatianos Rhythm

Example 12



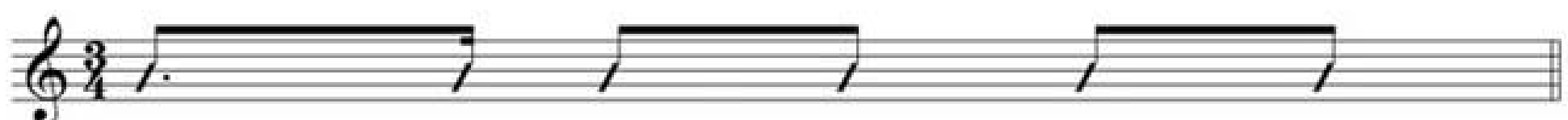
## Karsilamas Rhythm

Example 13



## Tsamikos Rhythm

Example 14



## WORKING WITH THE VIDEO RECORDING

In this book, we have included videos complementing the information written in these pages. Please do not make the mistake of using only the book or only the video, because you will miss much valuable learning information.

In the video, you can watch the real performance of every piece of music followed by a brief explanation of certain details. Following is a slow tempo performance for you to see right- and left-hand details. You can also use this slow performance as practice to play along to before you are ready to try the actual tempo.

Be aware that, in some cases, the slow versions do not contain the repeats. Therefore, you'll need to refer to the score and/or the real performance version in order to play the original music structure.

## ZEYBEKIKO

Zeybekiko is the name of a Greek music style belonging to what is called Rebetiko music. Rebetiko is also known as the "Greek blues" because of the similarities in the lifestyle of the bluesmen in North America and the Rebetiko musicians. Many Greeks living in Turkish lands were shifted back to Greece and forced to leave all their belongings. They arrived at the city to discover that the government didn't have resources to help them. Left with nothing, many tried to make a living playing music. Many Rebetiko songs talk about the tough life they were bearing.

Zeybekiko comes from Zeibeks, who were a lineage of warriors found in Anatolia. Hence, we find the Zeibekiko rhythms in both Greece and Turkey. But you must remember that, although the beat count is the same, the rhythm performance differs in both places.

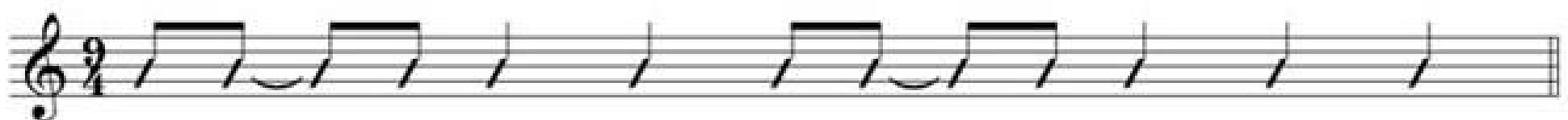
More than a style, we could say Greek Zeybekiko is mainly a rhythm because, melodic or harmonically speaking, it doesn't differ much from other styles inside of Greece. It's based on a count of nine beats with a characteristic rhythmic pattern:

Example 20



This same pattern can be started from different points in a cyclical way. This can only occur in different tunes, however, meaning that you cannot break this cycle within the same tune. So one song might have one starting point of the pattern, and a different song could have another starting point, etc. In the next example, you can see the previous pattern starting on the fourth beat (this fourth beat now becomes the first).

Example 21



In this book, Fernando Pérez explores the romantic and complex music of Greece, its melodies, harmonies and complex rhythms. He teaches several Greek melodies arranged for the guitar's unique capabilities.

## About Greek Music

Melodies and Scales  
Harmony and Chord Progressions  
Rhythms

## Greek Melodies and Songs Arranged for Guitar

Zeybekiko  
Syrtaki  
Karsilamas  
Tsamiko

To Papoutsi ton Tsankari (The Shoemaker's Shoe)

To Bouzouki Mou (My Bouzouki)

Epirus Dance

Thessaly Dance

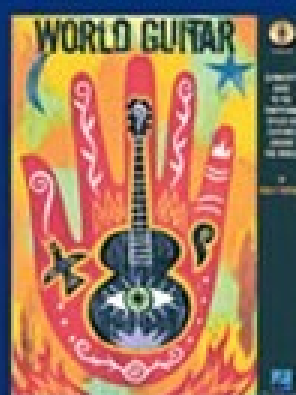
Balkan Kalamatianos

Kastro Psilo o Erotas (High Castle of Love)

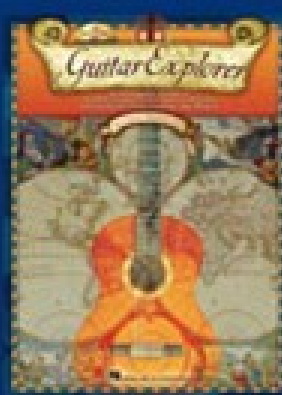


Fernando Pérez demonstrates these Greek melodies in video lessons available online. To access these lessons, go to [www.halleonard.com/mylibrary](http://www.halleonard.com/mylibrary) and enter the unique access code printed on the first page of this book. Music examples with accompanying video lessons are marked with a video icon.

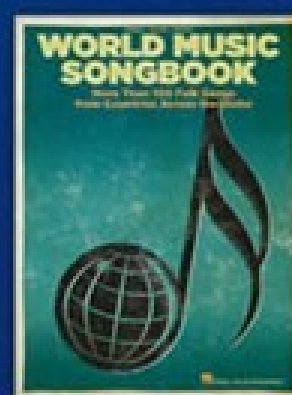
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# Balkan Kalamatianos

Composed by Fernando Pérez

Capo III

Prestissimo ♩ = 150

INTRO

mp

trance

(2)

trance

(2)

12