

M.A.G.I.C



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21st primary school of
Athens

“Lela Karagianni”

Folk festival

UNITED IN MUSIC

FOLK FESTIVAL : A TRADITIONAL CELEBRATION WITH DANCES AND SONGS

- Folk Festivals are celebrations carried out throughout Greece to honour either an Orthodox Saint or mainly Virgin Mary whose name day we celebrate on 15th August.



FOLK FESTIVAL IN NAXOS ISLAND



- On the island of Naxos ,at a mountainous village called Apeiranthos, the celebrations take place either in the square or in the nearby cafes where you can see people gathering early in the afternoon waiting for the festival to begin. It starts with the violins, as they call it “zigia”(a couple of instruments) that is, a violin and a lute or a tsambuna(it’s a double flute with a bag) and a dumbaki(a small drum) and of course , a singer.
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FOLK FESTIVAL

- The dancers stand up and a group dance called “sirtos” (meaning move forward) begins. It is danced in a circle and the dancers move 6 steps forward in a double rhythm (2/4) .
 - During the dance, relatives and friends of the dancers throw money to the musicians and treat the dancers to “raki “(a local strong drink that tastes like tsipouro) and candies. The dancers stop dancing to drink raki and the women, as a sign of gratitude, throw the candies to the people.
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FOLK FESTIVAL



- Then “sirtos” changes to “balos”, another dance. Balos is a love dance with the couple, usually a married or an engaged one, dancing facing each other. However, if there is no close relationship between the two, it is believed that they are in love and will soon be engaged.
 - While dancing, the man tries to impress his partner with his dancing skills.
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FOLK FESTIVAL

- The celebrations go on until dawn when the elderly men throw their walking sticks and dance with “leventia”(bravely and nobly) at the same time reminding everyone of their youth.
 - **Useful links:**
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4tEpGGinfvA>
 - <https://youtu.be/RK09NxGTBX0>
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