



Kicking-off

2024-25

Another successful year has gone by (2023-24) and now we have settled into 2024-25. The GS dancers and RDG (junior, intermediate, senior, and adult divisions) are busy teaching dances from all over Greece. We wish everyone a great year!

02

Current Financials
2-Year Goals
Long-term Goals

03

What's Up?
Adult Division
Senior Division
Intermediate Div.
Junior Division

04

What's Up? Cont...
GS Dancers
Apokries in Naousa

05

In the News...

St. George's Greek Community Dance Committee Newsletter



Greek School Dancers

Winter
2025



Greek Dance in Halifax, est. 1986.

Welcome!

Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter. Stay on top of our financial updates, goals, and other important cultural and community news. Please share this newsletter with the rest of our community.

Adult Winter Session 2025

Registration is now open for the adult division (\$50 or \$5 per drop-in). Practices will take place on Thursdays 7-8pm at the Hall. Click [here](#) or use the QR code to register.



romiosyni.org

Laografia 2025

The RDG is excited to announce that we will be attending Laografia 2025 May long weekend. The venue has moved from downtown Montreal to Laval, QC.

This year's conference will teach dances from Anatoliki Romylia (Ak Bounar and Kavakli), Skyros, Arkadia, Amorgos, and Serifos.

ATTENTION!

Chaperone's are needed for the conference. Please contact us ASAP if you are interested.



<https://tinyurl.com/47t3rjky>

Fundraising

Fundraising for the upcoming conference has begun. We would like to thank our volunteers, dancers, parents, and community members for their support. Please stay tuned for other fundraising news and initiatives.

Congratulations to our \$1000 Xorio Raffle winner Chris Fasoulis!



<https://tinyurl.com/2k4jtnry>

Financials

September 1st to December 31st, 2024

Registration	\$4550
T-shirts	\$470
Donation	\$100
Expenses	-\$631.89
RDG funds:	\$15,366.59
Conference fundraising:	\$2,566.18
Total in bank: \$17,932.77	

RDG funds are raised mainly from fees and donations. Conference fundraising is money raised for conferences. Leftover funds raised from the last conference (Klironomia) have rolled over for Laografia.

The Importance of Fees

The dance group does not receive funding from the community, so it is important for the dance group to “crowdfund” from its members.

Fees are important to our organization because it allows the group to have long-term sustainability. Well-funded community organizations can lead to improved participation, higher cultural and educational outcomes, and outreach to other Greek communities and organizations.* Collected fees are re-invested in our organization and membership.

*Canadian Council on Social Development (CCSD)
 *Public versus private funding of nonprofit organizations: Implications for collaboration.
<https://doi.org/10.2753/PMR1530-9576310202>



Pourpouris (Thraki)
 Credit: Giorgos Tatakis

UPCOMING EVENTS



13/15/23

RDG Dance Practice

Dance practices resume on Monday January 13th (Seniors) and 15th (Juniors). The adults will begin on January 23rd (Thursday's).



22

Independence Day Gala

Romiosyni will hold the Independence Day Gala on March 22nd. Come down to support the dance group as all proceeds will go towards Laografia and costumes.

Costumes: 2-Year Plan

2025

Costume Purchases

Girls Costumes (extra sizes)

- Cretan Costumes (2)
€700 each
- Trikeri Costumes (2)
€650 each

Total: €2700

\$4100 (not including shipping)

2025



Funding Met

- Girls Cretan and Trikeri costumes (extra sizes needed).
- Boys Kyklades kaltsodeltes (2)
Price TBD
- Boys Pontian shoes (2)
Price TBD

2026



Funding Almost Met

- Macedonian costumes (16) (specific costumes undecided)
- Cost likely to be €300 - €700 each.*

Long-term Goals

Future Costume Purchases

The dance group lacks proper sizing for girls and boys costumes. Because of damage and “wear and tear” over the years, costume pieces must also be replaced.

- Pontian girls (2 for sizing)
- Desfines girls (2 for sizing)
- Metaxades girls (2 for sizing)
- Poukamisa for foustanelles (8)
- Tsarouhia
- Boys Cretan white shirts
- More costume sizes for boys (Pontian/Kyklades/Thrace)

*Men’s costumes tend to cost on the lower end, and women’s on the higher end. We are projecting to meet funding costs next year.

Adult Division



The adult division has been dancing to Rembetika/Asia Minor songs, with a Hassapiko from Constantinople being worked on. Other areas of concentration have been dances from Naxos, with a special emphasis on the variety and styles of Ballos dances from the Dodecanese and the Cyclades. Individual traditions have also been tackled, including Gikna, and the wedding bread with each lead dancer putting their “flouri” on the tray.

What's Up?

Senior Division

The senior division is busy this year as they are preparing something fresh. Aki is currently teaching dances from Epiros, specifically from the Greek/Vlach villages of the Mastorohoria (Konitsa). Their Greek Fest performance will have a “panigyri” feel, and will feature dances such as Patinada, Sta Dio, Sta Tria, Rihtos, Padiotiko, Kato Sta Eksi Marmara, Thlikotos, Tsamiko, and Ehasa Mantili.

Konitsa is not the only set of dances that the seniors are working on.



The Mastorohoria (Konitsa)

The Taverna set is going to have a makeover for this year's Greek Fest. Aki, Xenia, and Yanni are working on new dances this year. Thank you to both dancers for assisting Aki on refreshing the set.

Women's Cretan Costume

“Sartza” or “Anogeiani”

There are many traditional costumes for women on the island of Crete. Aside from the Sfakiani, Kouda, and other variations, the dance group currently has a collection of the “Anogeiani” costume. The costume is named after the famous village of Anogeia. The alternate name for the costume is also the “Sartza,” which is named after the apron that is worn with it.



Junior Division

The Junior Division is focusing on learning basic styles of various regions of Greece to facilitate their transition from Greek School into RDG. They have focused primarily on learning dances from the mainland regions of Roumeli and Messolonghi in preparation for their 25th of March Gala performance! We are excited for them to continue their learning of the Dodekanisa Island and Thraki regions as we work up to Greek Fest.

Intermediate Division

The Intermediate Division has been busy at work refining their skills for more difficult sets like Crete and a major focus on incorporating more difficult dances into their Anatoliki Romylia set. In the upcoming year we are excited for them to learn some newly choreographed tavern dances and continue to develop their comfort with freestyle dances like couples syrto from the Kyklades. They will be performing some of their newly learned dances from Anatoliki Romylia at the gala in March!

Main Contacts

AKI TSIRIGOTIS
Senior Division
akistsirigotis@gmail.com

TEDDY MAVROGIANNIS
Intermediate Division
teddymavro@hotmail.com

DINA ROGERS
Intermediate Division
constadina@hotmail.ca

KOSTAS KOLOKATSIS
Adult Division
kolokatsis@yahoo.com

FANI TSIRIGOTIS
GS Dancers
theofano.tsirigotis@gmail.com

THIMIOS KARMAS
Junior Division
ef506036@dal.ca

VASO KARMAS
GS Dancers
vs302821@dal.ca

Grades 1-3

It's been a wonderful experience introducing new dancers to the joy of Greek dance. The Grade 1s, dancing for the first time, have been learning how to hold a circle and are catching on so quickly. Their enthusiasm is contagious, and they're picking up dances like Syrtos Sta Tria and other dances beautifully. All three grades new favourite song is Varka Sto Gialo, and their singing brings so much joy. A special shoutout to the Grade 3s, who have been stepping up as role models, leading circles with confidence and supporting the younger students.

What's Up? Cont... GS Dancers

Grades 3-6

For Grades 4-6, their hard work and dedication to learning more complex dances like Tsamiko, Kalamatiano, Ikariotiko tis Sibetheras and other dances have been truly inspiring. Their singing for Milo Mou Kokino has been absolutely amazing, filling the room with so much spirit. We're especially proud of the Grade 4s for catching up quickly and working seamlessly alongside the Grade 5s and 6s.

As for the Grade 6s, this year is particularly special as it's their final year dancing with Greek school. They've been doing an excellent job and are leaving a legacy of hard work and passion for the younger students to follow.



Men's Cretan Costume



"Salvari"

There are two variations of the men's costume in Crete: the "gilota" and the "salvari." Our dance group possesses 8 "salvari" costumes that comprise a "sariki" (headscarf), "vraka" (pants), "stivania" (boots), "meitanogileko" (vest), and "zonari" (sash). It said that the more embroidery on a man's vest shows how much his wife really loves him.

Aporkries in Naousa

Romiosyni was fortunate to learn the dances and traditions of Naousa at Klironomia 2004. As part of our session, our instructor Giorgos Pipilas taught dances of the "Genitsaroi" and "Boules."

Background

On the "Kyriaki tis Apokrias" and the "Kyriaki tis Tyrinis," the sound of the zourna and the daouli accompanies the dancers with every step, as they dance in the streets of Naousa in groups (bouloukia).

This special carnival custom dates back to the 18th century, while some say it could have ancient roots.

The Routine

In the morning, the bouloukia come together and the Genitsaroi get dressed. The Genitsaroi costume, with its main element the foustanella, consists of many accessories and is complemented by a characteristic mask with very small openings for the eyes and mouth.

The man who will dress as the Bride wears a wide, fancy floral dress with accessories that characterize the local women's costume of Naousa. He also wears the mask (without a mustache) and a bridal headdress with flowers and ribbons.

Before noon, they gather at the city hall and get the mayor's permission to dance in the city. They continue dancing in the streets and in the afternoon, their face masks are removed.



In the News...



From left to right: Georgia Gavas, Vasiliki Victoria Iatrou, Iriana Theoharopoulos, Arianna Nikolaou, Katie Trifos. Credit: Victoria Iatrou

The Greek Reporter highlighted some of our current and former dancers! Congrats to our girls who excel on and off the pitch. To read the article, scan the QR code or click the shortlink.

<https://tinyurl.com/mskez67m>



Dance Research...



After a successful presentation at the Klironomia Conference, Yanni Karmas was invited

to speak at Mount Saint Vincent University in November. Yanni presented his research on cultural maintenance within the context of Greek dance for the graduate education class "Contemporary Perspectives in Lifelong Learning." The course was taught by part-time faculty Aki Tsirigotis (our senior division instructor).

Yanni and Aki will also collaborate on future academic research within the context of Greek dance and adult education.



Dina Rogers (centre)

Dance Teacher/Dancer/Scientist

Congratulations to Dina Rogers on winning 1st place at the Falling Walls Science Summit in Berlin (November 2024). Scan the QR code or click the shortlink to read her story!

<https://tinyurl.com/mrd6at56>



Credit: Yanna Theoharopoulos



<https://tinyurl.com/f7pmz7j4>

CTV News Atlantic highlighted more of our dancers, with no surprise, on the pitch! Congrats to their coach - and former RDG instructor alumnus - George Theoharopoulos and players/dancers Kyrkos Theoharopoulos and Panos Gavas. To watch the segment, scan the QR code or click the shortlink.

Thank You AHEPA!



Romiosyni was invited to the Halifax Greek International Film Festival Tour (GIFFT), which was organized by the Halifax Chapter of AHEPA. Thank you to Taso Koutroulakis and the team for the invitation and their donation.

Any News to Share or Questions?

If you would like to share any news or accomplishments of our dancers and would like us to publish it, please email us: romiosynidancegroup@gmail.com