



Miserlou (Beloved)

Miserlou, meaning 'beloved', is based on the Keritikos Syrtos from Crete. Nicholas Roubanis published Miserlou, the tune, as sheet music in the 1930s. In the 1940s, the Mitchell Ayers band recorded the tune. In 1945, a Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, women's musical organization asked Professor Brunhilde Corsch to organize an international dance group at Duquesne University to honour America's World War II allies. She contacted Mercine Nesotas, who taught several Greek dances, including Syrtos Haniotikos (from Crete), which she called Keritikos, but for which they had no music. Because Pittsburgh's Greek-American community did not know Cretan music, Pat Mandros Kazalas, a music student, suggested the tune Miserlou, although slower, might fit the dance. The rest, as they say, is history. Miserlou is danced all over the world, even by the local Pittsburgh Greeks.

Miserlou, your sweet glance,
has lit a flame in my heart.
Your lips trickle of honey.

Ah, Miserlou, magical, enchanting beauty!

Craze will come to me, I can endure no longer.
Akh! That I steal you from Arabia.

My Miserlou, crazy, black-eyed,
one of your kisses lights a flame in me.
One little kiss from your sweet mouth!

Ah, Miserlou, magical, enchanting beauty!

Craze will come to me, I can endure no longer.
Akh! That I steal you from Arabia.