

## Ethnic Dance Music in Northern Indiana

### New Kyma (New Wave)

*IH213* Chicago & Addison, Illinois - April 24, 1987. Greek dance music.

Louie Zarakas (keyboards-vocals), Bill Ganas (clarinet), Costa 'Gus' Dages (bouzouki-vocals), Pete Gerogianas (electric guitar) & Tim Adams (drums)

Dance at Hellenic Cultural Center of SS Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Merrillville; recorded by Paul L. Tyler & Flawn Williams.

Neo Kyma, or "New Wave," a Greek band from Chicago, is led by Louie Zarakas, a young man born and raised in the Calumet region. The band played for a public dance held in the Hellenic Cultural Center at St.St. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Merrillville, Indiana, Louie Zarakas' home church. The band's repertoire includes music for dances from all regions of Greece, including the older folk dances of the north and the islands as well newer tunes from urban area.

Six to eight community dances are held at the Cathedral's Cultural Center each year, not counting weddings and other private celebrations. The public dances draw members of the Cathedral and of Greek Orthodox congregations in Hammond, Schererville, and Valparaiso. The most common Greek dances are kalamantiano, tsamiko, and hasapiko. At these events, one can also see the susta--a dance from the Greek Islands--and a Greek couple dance, the ballos from the Island of Hios. In addition, the Hellenic Cultural Center sponsors two folk dance groups, one for younger children and the Hellenic Cathedral Dancers for high school age kids. Elaine Papodakis is the director of both groups.

The event Neo Kyma played for was a public dance held on Friday, the first evening of the Second Annual Chicago Diocese Folk Dancing Festival. Dance groups were in attendance from Illinois, Wisconsin, and Indiana. Most of the dance groups were composed of young people. On Saturday and Sunday, the festival included dance workshops, a banquet, more social dancing, and performances, the featured performance was by a group of young adults from Tarpon Springs, Florida. The theme for this year's festival was "The Greek Wedding - A Cultural Experience."

The first event of the weekend was a dance workshop for high school age dancers. The leader of the Tarpon Springs group (a brother of a priest at the cathedral) began teaching a complex couple dance. While this session was still going on, Neo Kyma started playing for the social dancing. The dance floor remained empty until the workshop ended and the young people started to dance. From that point on there were always at least two lines of dancers out on the floor: one made up of thirty to fifty young adults and teenagers and one composed of ten to twenty parents and adults, including Father Nikitas Lulias. The two lines--which sometimes split into smaller lines--danced in separate parts of the floor with little interaction. The band was set up on a large stage at the south end of the hall, and around fifty adults sat at round tables set up in the center of the hall marking the north boundary of the dance floor. Overall, the hall appeared

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rather empty as there were less than two hundred people present in a room big enough to seat six hundred people at tables.