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**Orcheses the Thracian: The Development of the Musical and Dance Rhythms of Thrace  
from the Antiquity to Today.**

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**Abstract**

Thrace, because of its geographical place, played an important role in the history of the wider region. Is the place that encouraged a variety of installations, different ways of life, exploitation of the environment and a development of different cultural regions. A place with a mixed population, became a cultural centre already from the very ancient years, idiomorphic and diverse. Many of those elements maintained up to today, for reasons that are related to the historical course of the area and its population. The purpose of present work was to study the historical development of the musical and dancing rhythmical forms that were shaped in the wider Thracian region from the antiquity up to today. The musical and dancing culture of Thrace, variform in melodies, rhythms and diatonic, chromatic harmonies and pentatonic scales, is considered as one of the two more important branches of the corresponding Greek culture, with main characteristic traits being peculiar melodic in style and in composition, the technique and the expression as well as an admirable, polymorph melodic rhythms, as and in different forms and dancing patterns. Except of the common bilateral, tripartite and quadripartite rhythms, the mixed fivefold, seven parted and nine parted, mainly Thracian rhythms, emanate their descendant from the Greek antiquity. If to them is added also the famous hexametrical, then we have a representative picture of the musical and dancing identity of Thrace.

Key words: Thrace, dance, cultural identity, musical and dancing culture, rhythmical forms, hexametrical.