

1960 SANTA BARBARA FOLK DANCE CONFERENCE

Presented by Mildred von Konsky

EL LLANERO

(The Plainsman)

Venezuela

El Llanero is a dance of creole tradition danced on social or festival occasions. It is not a strict form and may be considered as one of the many variants of the Joropo. Venezuela is a "land of contrasts" from a geographical and sociological point of view. In the east connecting with Guiana are the forests and the highlands; the west and south-west Andes add high mountains and semi-tropical valleys, with the coastal areas and great Venezuelan plains, the llanos, completing this varied pattern. The plainsmen are called llaneros. Those who tend the cattle and half-wild horses are sometimes referred to as cowboys. The musical instrument particularly favored by the llaneros is the cuatro, or four-stringed guitar. The maracas from the coastal regions sometimes appear in their orchestras. Three separate traditions: Spanish, Negro and Indian, comprise the folklore of Venezuela. Their typical dances and folk music are a blend of all three traditions woven together to form a mixed, or creole culture.

- MUSIC: Record: Bowmar Educational Records, Latin American Folk Dances Album 6. Record 006-3B, El Llanero. This dance description follows the one associated with this recordings.
- FORMATION: Any number of cpls in separated lines about five feet apart. Ptrs facing, boys line L side toward front of room, girls line R side toward front. Boys' H's lightly clasped in back, girls' holding skirt.
- STEPS: Regular waltz step, strongly accented on ct 1. Zapateado as follows: Stamp on leading ft, ct 1. Brush free ft fwd (heel leading, ct 2). Step on free ft beside supporting ft, ct 3.

Meas	Pattern
3 Guitar Chords -	INTRODUCTION: Stand with little weight on ft toward the front.
Violin and Marimba 1-4	I. APPROACH PARTNER AND RETURN Starting with boy's L ft, girl's R ft dance 4 accented waltz steps in place.
Repeat 1-4	Advance toward ptr 2 accented waltz steps. Retreat from ptr 2 accented waltz steps.
5-8 With Repeat	Repeat action of meas 1-4 with repeat 1-4. Figure I.

continued...

El Llanero (cont'd)

II. CIRCLE AWAY FROM PARTNER

Violin and
Marimba 9-16

With 7 accented waltz steps, circle away from ptr, boy starting L ft, girl, R ft. Girl circles toward the front and CW. Boy toward the front and CCW. Finish with 2 stamps in original place facing ptr, hold ct 3.

III. LINES MOVE TOWARD REAR AND THEN TOWARD FRONT OF ROOM

Flute Added 1-8

With 8 Zapateado steps move toward rear of room, boy's R girl's L ft leading. On ct 3, meas 8, do not shift weight in preparation for reversing direction.

Repeated 1-8

Move toward front of room with 8 zapateado steps. Leading ft is boy's L, girl's R.

Repeat dance in exact order two times. (Three times in all). To finish dance, repeat action measures 1-7, Figure III, Measure 8 take 2 stamps in place, hold ct 3 while taking a quick bow. In other words, the third time the dance is performed, the zapateados are done moving toward rear of room, toward front of room, stamp and bow.