

1960 SANTA BARBARA FOLK DANCE CONFERENCE

Presented by Albert Pill

La Moreliana
(Contradanza from state of Jalisco, Mexico)

This dance is classified in Mexico as a Baile de Epoca as it belongs to the epoch following the French intervention in Mexico and was danced in Jalisco in the late 1800's. Originally, this contradanza was danced in quadrille formation, but as the styles changed and less and less people knew the form of the dance, the dance would occasionally be danced in couples at large gatherings.

The people in the villages of Mexico observed the French dance their cuadrillas and contradanzas and later began to imitate their style of dance. The net result was that the cuadrillas and contradanzas of European origin began to be danced by the people of Mexico who gave these dances a distinctive Mexican character, often to the extent of burlesquing the manner of dance of the Europeans.

This form of dance is rarely seen in Mexico today and can be found only in areas where members of the older generation have consciously made an effort to preserve the old dances.

SOURCE: Learned by Albert S. Pill from Professor Amado Lopez Castillo, teacher of regional dance in Mexico City.

MUSIC: Record: ASP EP-701

FORMATION: Cpls, hands joined in skating pos, R hands over L, all facing
LOD: W to R of M.

STEPS: La Moreliana Step, Cut Step.

La Moreliana Step: Step diag back on R ft at same time slightly raising L ft in front of R ft (ct 1), step flat on L ft in front of R ft (ct 2) step R ft in place diag to rear of L ft (ct 3). Repeat beg L ft.

Cut Step: Leap lightly onto R ft cutting L ft fwd (ct 1), leap lightly onto L ft cutting R ft fwd (ct 2), leap lightly onto R ft cutting L ft fwd (ct 3), raise L ft slightly from floor with knee bent (ct &) stamp fwd on L ft without wt (cts 4-6). The Cut Step may also begin with L ft. (Keep feet close to floor during this step.)

M and W on same ft throughout the dance.

Music 3/4
meas.

Pattern

A

FIGURE I FORWARD IN SKATING POS

1-6

Cpls move fwd in LOD with 6 La Moreliana Steps beg R ft.

7-8

Cpls dance one Cut Step beg R ft, the M dancing in place and the W moving to the M-L side; hands remain joined.

9-14

Cpls continue moving fwd in LOD with 6 La Moreliana Steps beg L ft.

15-16

Cpls dance one Cut Step beg L ft, the M dancing in place and the W returning to the M-R side.

Continued...

La Moreliana (cont'd)

- meas. FIGURE II WOMAN CIRCLES THE MAN
 Cpls drop hands and face each other, M back to center of circle.
 1-6 W has basket hanging from L arm. Her L arm is extended out in front of her body and curved in an arc. The M has L hand behind back and R hand extended and curved in front of body waist high. W circles once around the M, moving CCW with 6 La Moreliana Steps beg R ft. M does the La Moreliana Step in place turning head to look at ptr. As the W moves around the M she takes a flower from the basket in her arm (1 meas) and throws the flower to someone in the audience (1 meas) continuing thus for the 6 meas.
 7-8 Ptrns face each other and do one Cut Step beg R ft. On the stamp of meas 8, ptrns bow, M Lowering R hand in a gesture of acknowledging ptr.
 9-14 Repeat action of FIGURE II, meas 1-6, beg L ft, and W circling CW.
 15-16 Repeat action of FIGURE II, meas 7-8, beg L ft.
- A FIGURE III FORWARD IN SKATING POSITION
 1-16 Repeat action FIGURE I, meas 1-16.
- C FIGURE IV CHANGING PLACES
 1-2 Ptrns exchange places with 2 La Moreliana Steps beg R ft; while changing places ptrns join R hands in an overhead circular motion.
 3-4 Return to own place joining L hands and dancing 2 La Moreliana Steps beg L ft.
 5-6 Repeat action FIGURE IV, meas 1-2, ending in exchanged places.
 7-8 Facing ptr do one Cut Step beg R ft and bow to ptr on stamp of meas 8.
 9-11 Repeat action FIGURE IV, meas 3-4.
 13-14 Repeat action FIGURE IV, meas 1-2.
 15-16 Repeat action FIGURE IV, meas 3-4.
 17-18 Repeat action FIGURE IV, meas 7-8, beg L ft.
- A FIGURE V CIRCLE
 1-6 Ptrns join both hands across, arms rounded, R shoulders twd each other. Cpls circle once CW with 6 La Moreliana Steps beg R ft.
 7-8 Dance one Cut Step beg R ft and change position so that L shoulders are twd each other.
 9-14 Repeat action FIGURE V, meas 1-6, beg L ft and circling CCW.
 15-16 Dance one Cut Step beg L ft.
- B FIGURE VI FORWARD AND WOMAN TURNS
 1-2 Join inside hands and face LOD. Cpls move fwd Lod with 2 La Moreliana Steps beg R ft.
 3-4 W turns once CCW under joined inside hands with 2 La Moreliana Steps beg R ft as M dances same steps in place.
 5-6 Repeat action of FIGURE VI, meas 1-2, beg L ft.
 7-8 Dance one Cut Step in place beg R ft; on meas 8 ptrns bow, inside hands still joined.
 9-16 Repeat action FIGURE VI, meas 1-8, beg La Moreliana Steps on L ft.

continued...

La Moreliana (cont'd)

A FIGURE VII MAN TURNS AND WOMAN TURNS

- 1-2 Inside hands still joined. M turns once CW under joined inside hands with 2 La Moreliana Steps beg R ft as W dances same steps without turning - both move slightly fwd in LOD.
- 3-4 W turns once CCW under joined inside hands with 2 La Moreliana Steps beg R ft as M dances same steps without turning - continuing to move slightly fwd in LOD.
- 5-6 Repeat action FIGURE VII, meas 1-2.
- 7-8 Dance one CUT Step in place beg R ft; on meas 8 ptrns bow, inside hands still joined.
- 9-16 Repeat action FIGURE VII, meas 1-8, beg La Moreliana Step on L ft.

C FIGURE VIII BACK TO BACK, FACE TO FACE, DISHRAG TURN

- 1 Inside hands joined, ptrns move fwd LOD going back to back with one La Moreliana Step beg R ft.
- 2 Still moving fwd in LOD, ptrns go face to face with one La Moreliana Step beg L ft.
- 3-4 Cpls do a dishrag turn away from each other with 2 La Moreliana Steps beg R ft
- 5-6 Repeat action FIGURE VIII, meas 1-2.
- 7-8 Dance one Cut Step beg R ft and bow on meas 8.
- 9-16 Repeat action of FIGURE VIII, meas 1-8, beg La Moreliana Step on L ft.

A FIGURE IX FORWARD IN SKATING POSITION

- 1-16 Repeat action FIGURE I, meas 1-16.

B FIGURE X WOMAN CIRCLES THE MAN

- 1-16 Repeat action FIGURE II, meas 1-16.

A FIGURE XI COUPLES FORWARD

- 1-6 M takes W-L elbow in his R hand to support her L arm in carrying her basket of flowers. Cpls face LOD. Move fwd in LOD with 6 La Moreliana Steps beg R ft, as W throws flowers as in FIGURE II.
- 7-8 Face ptrn and do one Cut Step beg R ft and M bows as in FIGURE II, meas 7-8.
- 9-16 Repeat action FIGURE XI, meas 1-8, beg L ft, and bow to ptrn at end of dance.

The above dance description will soon appear in a book by Albert A. Pill and should not be reproduced without permission of the author.