

1960 SANTA BARBARA FOLK DANCE CONFERENCE

Presented by Albert S. Pill

LAS ALAZANAS

Mexican

Las Alazanas is a popular son (dance tune) from the state of Jalisco. It is known as Son Jalisciense. The sones from the state of Jalisco are the gayest and best known in all of Mexico. They are always played by a mariachi orchestra.

The word "alazan" refers to a sorrel colored horse. Very often, the dancers in the Mexican villages would try to interpret the themes or titles of the music or the verses of a song by dancing appropriate steps and movements to the music and singing. Thus, many of the sones of Mexico have dance movements corresponding to the theme of the music. In this dance, Las Alazanas, the dancers interpret the movements of courtship between two sorrel colored horses.

SOURCE: Learned by Albert S. Pill in classes at the Academia de Danza Mexicana de Bellas Artes in Mexico City.

MUSIC: Record: ASP EP - 701

FORMATION: Double circle of cpls, ptrns facing, M back to center of circle.

STEPS: Las Alazanas Step, Push Step.

Las Alazanas Step:

Leap onto R ft to rear of L ft, stamp L ft in front of R ft. Repeat. Stamp R, L, R. Repeat beg L ft.

Movement and attitude is that of the gait of a horse.

Music

Pattern

M and W on same ft throughout dance.

Introduction: Chord

FIGURE I Changing Places

- A. Ptrns change places with 4 Las Alazanas steps passing R shoulders and making $\frac{1}{2}$ turn L on the stamps of the 4th step.
- B. Ptrns return to own place in the same manner, ending the 4th step with only 2 stamps L, R.

CHORUS I

- A. Ptrns facing dance 3 push steps to own R and 3 push steps to own L and repeat twice more.
- B. Each make one turn to own L by crossing R ft over L ft and leaping on it to turn L, stamp L ft completing the turn, stamp R, L, in place.
- C. Repeat A and B; on the final turn, W makes only $\frac{1}{2}$ turn to her L to end with back twd. M.

Continued...

Las Alazanas (cont'd)

FIGURE II Moving to the front

- A. W in front of M both facing out of circle, M a little to L of W. M moves to front of W passing to the L with one Las Alazanas step beg R ft as W dances same step in place.
- B. W moves to front of M passing to the R with one Las Alazanas step beg L ft as M dances same step in place.
- C. Repeat A.
- D. Repeat B; on the stamps both M and W make $\frac{1}{2}$ turn to the L to end W behind M, both facing center of circle.
- E. W moves to front of M passing to the L with one Las Alazanas Step beg R ft as M dances same step in place.
- F. M moves to front of W passing to the R with one Las Alazanas Step beg L ft as W dances same step in place.
- G. Repeat E.
- H. Repeat F; on only two stamps M makes $\frac{1}{2}$ turn L to face W as W does stamps in place.

CHORUS II

- A. Repeat action of CHORUS I.

FIGURE III Following Partner

- A. W in front of M, both facing out of circle. M follows behind W as both move to outside of circle with 4 Las Alazanas steps beg R ft. On the 3 stamps of the 4th step both M and W make $\frac{1}{2}$ turn to L to face center of circle.
- B. W follows behind M as both move twd center of circle with 4 Las Alazanas steps beg R ft. End 4th step with 2 stamps L, R as M makes $\frac{1}{2}$ turn to L to face W.

CHORUS III

- A. Repeat action of CHORUS I, except that on the final turn (C) W makes a complete turn to L to end facing M.

FIGURE IV Changing Places

- A. Repeat action of FIGURE I.

CHORUS IV

- A. Repeat action of CHORUS III.

continued...

Las Alazanas (cont'd)

FIGURE V Forward in LOD

- A. Ptnrs move fwd together in LOD, without joining hands, M slightly behind and to L side of W, with 7 Las Alazanas steps doing only one single stamp R to end the 7th step.
- B. Join R hands, W makes $\frac{1}{2}$ turn to L with 3 steps L, R, L as M stands in place.
- C. Stamp R ft fwd, stamp diag L on L ft, to end in pose, R hands joined at W R hip, M free hand behind back, W free hand holding skirt. 1

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