

# LOS AMORES

## Argentina/Uruguay

Los Amores, comes from the flatlands of the Rio De La Plata, an area in Uruguay and Argentina commonly referred to as the "pampas." This dance, popular among the Gauchos, originated in the middle part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and openly displays elements of courtship. Danced both in the country and in the city parlor, it is a social commentary which displays dignity and elegance. Ed Austin first observed this dance in Montevideo, Uruguay in 1994, and later learned it from Graciela Torino Meyers, from Buenos Aires, Argentina.

TRANSLATION: The loves

PRONUNCIATION: lohhs ah-MOHR-ehs

FORMATION: 2 cpls, ptrs facing one another to form a small square. Arms and hands held at shoulder height, palms up, ready to snap fingers.

MUSIC: Statewide, Las Vegas 2001—"Folk Dance Classics"

STEPS: Basic step traveling: Step flat L (ct 1), step ball R (ct 2), step flat L (ct 3), Reverse.

HANDS: Snapping sequence: Together, L-R-L (S-Q-Q-S).

STYLE: The basic traveling step is danced smoothly, without bouncing. This dance is meant to be flirtatious, and a bit mischievous.

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METER: 3/4

PATTERN

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Meas.

**INTRODUCTION:**

1-9 Enter the dance floor

**PART A: Passing**

1-4 Cpls at the head, dance down along the outside: 4 basic steps.  
Cpls at the foot, dance inside toward the head: 4 basic steps.

5-8 Reverse.

9-16 Repeat.

**PART B: Exchange-across**

1-4 M give R hands and change places with 3 steps and beg the Zapateo step while W dance Zarandeo: Dancing in a diamond, 2 steps to dance fwd, 2 steps to dance bkwd, and diag-bkwd to return home.

- 5 W give R hands and change places with 4 steps while M dance Zapateo: Stomp R (ct 1), heel-ball L (ct 2 &), Step (R).
- 6 Reverse,
- 7-8 Repeat meas 5-6,  
(The M's first zapateo step begins after the 3<sup>rd</sup> basic of the exchange-across)
- 9-16 Repeat the exchange-across

**PART C: Chain**

- 1-6 M CCW, W CW: Cpls extend R hands and pull each other by with 6 steps (Cpls will have changed positions in the square).
- 7-8 Extend R hands, M turns W (L) under his R arm to face one another.

**PART D: Half Circle & Crowning Turn**

- 1-4 Dancers circumscribe a large half circle: 4 basic steps to trade places.
- 5-8 Dancers begin a small circle dancing 2 basic steps to arrive at R sides, then in 1 step make a small individual turn to face partner. Finish by stepping R into ptr and pose (W's arms slide between M's arms).

Dance notes by Ed Austin

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