

1960 SANTA BARBARA FOLK DANCE CONFERENCE

Presented by Albert S. Pill

JARABE ALEGRE

Mexican

One of the largest of the seven regions of the state of Oaxaca is the mountainous region called the Sierra Juarez. The sones of this region have a distinctive flavor found in no other region of Oaxaca. They are called Sones Serranos.

All of the pueblos in the Sierra Juarez dance the same type of dance to these Sones Serranos. This dance is sometimes called Jarabe Betaza or Jarabe Yalalteco, thereby named after a particular pueblo in the Sierra Juarez, or simply called Jarabe Alegre or Baile Alegre.

SOURCE: Learned by Albert S. Pill while dancing with the Oaxaca Regional Dance Group of Professor Miguel Angel Schultz in the Casa de Asegurada, Oaxaca, Oax.

MUSIC: Record: ASP EP- 702

FORMATION: Cpls, hands joined across and rounded, scattered around the room more or less in lines, but in no particular fixed formation. The movement of the dance is back and forth across width of the room and not in LOD.

STEP: Serrano Step, Crossing Serrano Step, Toe-Turning Step, Oaxaca Step.

Serrano Step: 6/8 one meas to complete one step.

Step and hop on R ft slightly raising L ft from floor (cts 1-3), step and hop on L ft slightly raising R ft from floor (cts 4-6). Step may begin on either foot.

Crossing Serrano Step: 6/8 one meas to complete one step.

Cross R ft over L and hop on R ft (cts 1-3), cross L ft over R and hop on L ft (cts 4-6). Step may begin on either foot.

Toe Turning Step: 4/4 M and W on same ft.

Step on R ft (ct 1), step on L toe while twisting R ft to R, stepping on R heel and turning R toe outward (ct 2). Repeat (cts 3-4).

Oaxaca Step: 4/4

Cross R ft over L, step back on L ft, step R ft to side, cross L ft over R ft, step back on R ft, step L ft to side. Step is danced on the toes and freely to the music. Step may also begin crossing L ft.

 Music

 Pattern

meas

1-8

A

FIGURE I

Dancers dance freely back and forth across width of room with 8 Serrano Steps. There are various combinations that can be used W bwd and M fwd, W fwd and M bwd, CW turn, CCW turn, etc.

continued...

Jarabe Alegre (cont'd)

- 1-8
(cont'd) Always keep hands joined around waist high and arms rounded. The step may begin on either R or L ft for M or W.
- 9-12 Dance 4 Crossing Serrano Steps in whatever place dancers are in. M begins on one ft and W on the other, with M leading the W into the step by giving her an indication as to what foot to start with by twisting the joined hands.
- 13-16 Repeat action FIGURE I, meas 1-4, continuing to dance freely.
- 17-78 Repeat action of FIGURE I, meas 1-16.
- 1-6 B FIGURE II
Moving CW, cpls dance 6 Toe Turning Step, all beg R ft.
- 7-12 In place, cpls dance Oaxaca Steps freely till end of music, M beg on one ft and W on the other, with M leading W into the step by indicating with joined hands.

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