

1963 SANTA BARBARA FOLK DANCE CONFERENCE

Presented by Albert S. Pill

LA JOAQUINTA
(Mexican)

SOURCE: The source for La Joaquinita is Helen Erfer, who notated the dance while traveling in Mexico. The tune is one popular during the Pancho Villa period and is contemporaneous with Jesusita, Cucaracha and Valentina, all popular songs of that period. The dance is known mainly in Northern Mexico.

The character of the dance is rather comic and extremely flirtatious. The man leans forward throughout the dance while the woman dances demurely sometimes with downcast eyes and sometimes with a watchful eye on her partner. The heel-toe step in Figures 3 and 4 are intentionally clumsy and the comic aspect may be exaggerated.

MUSIC: Record: Imperial 1084 "La Joaquinita"

FORMATION: Partners facing each other in a double circle; M with back to center. M clasps both hands behind him; W holds skirt in front.

STEPS: Joaquinita Step: Step-close-step, chug (a backward pull on supporting foot; the other foot is lifted very slightly)
Step-tap: Step R, hop R while touching L toe in back of R ft.
Repeat on L ft.
Step-close; heel-toe: Step-close to R twice (ct. 1, 2). Step swd R (ct. 3), displace R ft with quick hop on L ft., placing R heel to side (ct. &); then place R toe close to L ft (ct. 4). Quickly step down on R ft and repeat sequence to L.
Buzz; heel-toe: Step R, bending knee, step L on toe behind R ft.
Repeat this action twice more turning slowly to R once around. Hop on R ft, touching L heel to side, then touch L toe to R ft. (no hop).

Music 4/4

PATTERN

Measure

1-4

Introduction. Stand in place.

1 -

1. Joaquinita Step in Line; Joaquinita Step in Circle

2

Both starting R ft, take 1 Joaquinita step to R.
Repeat to L.

3-4

Repeat Measures 1-2.

5-8

Each makes a small individual circle CW with 4 Joaquinita steps, starting R ft. Brush L shoulders as partners turn away from each other. Finish so that R shoulders are adjacent.

9-12

2. Step-tap Around; Joaquinita Step in Line

With R shoulders close and partners looking at each other over the shoulder, circle around once CW with 8 step-taps. Finish facing partner as at beginning.

13-16

Repeat Figure 1, measures 1-4.

Continued...

- 1-2 3. Step-close 3 times; Heel-toe
Moving to R, step-close, heel-toe as described above. On heel-toe action, lean twd R while looking over L shoulder at partner.
- 3-4 Repeat moving to L.
- 5-8 Repeat Figure 3, measures 1-4.
- 9-10 4. W Buzz; Heel-toe
M repeats action of Figure 3, measures 1-8, while W turns in place to R with 3 buzz steps once around. Bend twd L, looking over R shoulder at partner and hop on R ft, placing L heel to side, then touch L toe close to R ft.
- 11-12 W repeats buzz steps and heel-toe in opposite direction.
- 13-16 W repeats action of Figure 4, measure 9-12/
- 1 5. Joaquinita Step Backward and Forward; W turn
Moving bwd, take 1 Joaquinita step away from partner.
- 2 Moving fwd, take 1 Joaquinita step twd partner.
- 3-4 Repeat Figure 5, measures 1-2.
- 5-8 Join RH in an arch; M dances 4 Joaquinita steps in place, while W turns slowly CW once under joined upraised arms with 4 of the same steps (W continues to look at M as she turns).
- 9-12 6. Turn in Varsouvienne Position; Backward and Forward
Keeping RH joined high, join LH in front of M and dance 4 Joaquinita steps turning together CCW (M moves bwd). Partners look at each other.
- 13-16 Drop hands and face partner as at beginning. Repeat Figure 5, measures 1-4, finishing with 3 accented steps moving twd partner on last measure and hold last ct.

Repeat entire dance. Conclude with Figure 2, making 3 accented steps twd partner on last measure and pose with R shoulders adjacent.