

**EL LLANERO (The Plainsman)**  
(Venezuela)

El Llanero is a dance of creole tradition danced on social or festival occasions. It is not a strict form and may be considered as one of the many variants of the Joropo. Venezuela is a "land of contrasts" from a geographical and sociological point of view. In the east connecting with Guiana are the forests and the highlands; the west and south-west Andes add high mountains and semi-tropical valleys, with the coastal areas and great Venezuelan plains, the llanos, completing this varied pattern. The plainsmen are called llaneros. Those who tend the cattle and half-wild horses are sometimes referred to as cowboys. The musical instrument particularly favored by the llaneros is the cuatro, or four-stringed guitar. The maracas from the coastal regions sometimes appear in their orchestras. Three separate traditions: Spanish, Negro and Indian comprise the folklore of Venezuela. Their typical dances and folk music are a blend of all three traditions woven together to form a mixed, or creole culture. **Presented by Lucile Czarnowski at the 1959 Stockton Folk Dance Camp.**

- Music:** Record: Bowmar Educational Records, Latin American Folk Dances Album 6. Record 006-3B, El Llanero.  
This dance description follows the one associated with this recording.
- Formation:** Any number of couples in separated lines about five feet apart. Partners facing, boys' line L side toward front of room, girls line R side toward front. Boys' hands lightly clasped in back, girls' holding skirt.
- Steps:** Regular waltz step, strongly accented on ct. 1.  
Zapateado as follows: Stamp on leading foot (ct. 1). Brush free foot fwd. (heel leading, ct. 2). Step on free foot beside supporting foot (ct. 3).
- Music 3/4**  
**Measures**
- 3 guitar chords **INTRODUCTION** Stand with little weight on ft. toward the front.  
Violin &  
Marimba 1-4 **I. APPROACH PARTNER AND RETURN**  
Starting with boy's L ft., girl's R ft., dance 4 accented waltz steps in place.
- Repeated 1-4 Advance toward partner 2 accented waltz steps.  
Retreat from partner 2 accented waltz steps.  
5-8 Repeat action of meas. 1-4 with repeat 1-4 (Fig. I).  
with repeat
- Violin &  
Marimba 9-16 **II. CIRCLE AWAY FROM PARTNER**  
With 7 accented waltz steps, circle away from partner, boy starting L ft., girl, R ft. Girl circles toward the front and cw. Boy toward the front and ccw. Finish with 2 stamps in original place facing partner, hold ct. 3.
- Flute added 1-8 **III. LINES MOVE TOWARD REAR AND THEN TOWARD FRONT OF ROOM**  
With 8 zapateado steps move sideward toward rear of room, boy's R, girl's L ft. leading. On ct. 3, meas. 8, do not shift weight in preparation for reversing direction.
- Repeated 1-8 Move toward front of room with 8 zapateado steps. Leading ft. is boy's L, girl's R.
- To Finish Dance** Repeat dance in exact order two times. (Three times in all). To finish dance, repeat action meas. 1-7, Fig. III. Meas. 8 take 2 stamps in place, hold ct. 3 while taking a quick bow. In other words, the third time the dance is performed, the zapateados are done moving toward rear of room, toward front of room, stamp and bow.
- Coda**  
1-8