

1962 SANTA BARBARA FOLK DANCE CONFERENCE

Presented by Lisa Lekis

SAN JUANITO (CACHULLAPI)
Ecuador

SOURCE: The San Juanito, the most popular dance of the highland Indians of Ecuador is often considered to be of pure Indian origin, but the dance as seen today has obviously been greatly influenced by mestizo or Spanish dance forms. It differs from the Cachullapi only in tempo, the San Juanito being faster.

The dance is probably closely related to the Chilean Cueca, the Peruvian Marinero and the Bolivian Huaino, other dances all using a scarf or handkerchief as part of the dance. Although influenced by European dances, the San Juanito retains a great deal of the Indian character. The music is always played in a minor key, and even if danced during a Festival, the San Juanito has an air of sadness typical of the highland Indians, and lacks the gaiety of the Cueca. In rural areas the dance is accompanied by indigenous instruments including the rondador, the bamboo pipes used to produce a pentatonic scale. Although this recording was chosen for its relative regularity, the Indians have never seen any necessity for consistent phrasing or equal number of measures.

TEMPO: 3/4

- STEPS:
1. BASIC: The basic step is a quick balance step which can be counted 1 & 2 or 123. L ft steps fwd. (ct 1), balance step on ball of R ft beside L (ct &), step on L. Repeat to other side. The tempo is slow, quick, slow.
 2. BRUSH STEP: Step to L on L ft (ct 1).
Brush L ft fwd and up from floor rising slightly on R toe (ct 2).
Lower R heel to floor and return L ft to place beside R. (ct 3).
 3. KICK STEP: (usually danced by women)
Step R on R ft (ct 1)..
Swing L ft fwd and up about 12 inches off floor (ct 2).
Bending L knee, bring raised ft in toward R knee (ct &).
Extend L ft straight out (ct 3).
Repeat to L.
NOTE: This slight kicking motion is done very quickly and is more a flutter of the foot than a definite kick.
 4. PAS DE BASQUE: Like basic step but performed with a slight leap on ct 1.
 5. ZAPATEADOS: The zapateado is more commonly seen in urban centers where there is a wooden floor than in the country where brush steps are used. The zapateados may be complicated or simple according to the ability of the dancer. These described here are simple and easily performed.
Stamp L on L ft (ct 1)
Strike heel of R ft to floor with a slight fwd motion (ct 2)
Step R on ball of R ft (ct 3)
Repeat above always beginning with L foot. The step may be double timed and the same action performed two to a measure instead of one.