

1960 SANTA BARBARA FOLK DANCE CONFERENCE

Presented by Albert Pill

ZAMBAY MACHO
(Zahm-buy Mah-choh)

This is a carnival dance of the chicle gatherers from Chetumal on the peninsula of Yucatan. The chicleros live in the jungles and come to Merida in Yucatan for their fiestas and purchases.

The CARNAVAL in Merida is one of the most famous CARNAVALS in all of Mexico. During the CARNAVAL the people march in parades. There are organized groups from neighborhoods, towns, and regions. Each of these groups is called a COMPARZA. Each COMPARZA vies for prizes for their costumes and also for their dances. All of the dances of the CARNAVAL are dances of movement so as not to interrupt the line of march.

SOURCE: Learned by Albert S. Pill from Professor Amado Lopez Castillo, teacher of regional dance in Mexico City.

MUSIC: Record: ASP EP-701

FORMATION: Double circle of cpls, M back to center. W holds skirt in front; M has hands at sides.

STEPS: Zambay Two Step, Zambay Skip Step.

One Zambay Two Step Beg R ft: Raise R ft from floor slightly while turning body slightly to the R (ct &), step R ft to R side with R toe pointed to the R (cts 1-2), step L toe in place (ct 3), step R ft to R side with R toe pointed to R (cts 4-5), pivot on R ft while turning body to the L (ct 6).

One Zambay Two Step Beg L ft: Raise L ft slightly from floor (body turned to L) (ct &), step L ft to L side with L toe pointed to the L (cts 1-2), step R toe in place (ct 3), step L ft to L side with L toe pointed to the L (cts 4-5), pivot on L ft turning body to the R (ct 6).

ZAMBAY Skip Step: Raise R ft slightly from floor (ct &), step fwd on R ft (cts 1-2), chug bwd on R ft (ct 3), raise L ft slightly from floor (ct &), step fwd on L ft (cts 4-5), chug bwd on L ft (ct 6). Repeat beg R ft.

M and W on same ft. throughout dance.

Music 6/8

Pattern

meas

A FIGURE I FACE TO FACE AND CIRCLE

1-16 Facing ptrn, all do 16 Zambay Two Steps, turning alternately to R and L (beg. R ft).

B

1-8 Cpls join both hands across and circle CW with 4 Zambay Skip Steps, then reverse direction and circle CCW with 4 Zambay Skip Steps.

9-15 Repeat action of above meas 1-7, circling CW and CCW.

16 Return to place facing ptrn (dropping hands) with 1 Zambay Skip Step.

Continued...

Zambay Macho (cont'd)

meas

- A FIGURE II INDIVIDUAL CIRCLES AND SINGLE HAND TURN
- 1-8 Turn in individual circles to own R with 8 Zambay Two Steps, beg R ft.
9-16 Turn in individual circles to own L with 8 Zambay Two Steps, beg R ft.
- B 1-8 Ptnrs link R arms at elbow with hands extended upward and turn once CW with 4 Zambay Skip Steps, then link L arms and circle once CCW with 4 Zambay skip Steps, beg R ft.
9-15 Repeat action of above meas 1-7, turning CW and CCW.
16 Drop hands, and return to place facing ptrnr with 1 Zambay Skip Step.

FIGURE III DOS SI DCS AND PULL AWAY CIRCLE

- A 1-8 Ptnrs dos si dos passing R shoulders and backing up to place passing L shoulders with 8 Zambay Two Steps, beg R ft.
9-16 Ptnrs dos si dos passing L shoulders and backing up to place passing R shoulders with 8 Zambay Two Steps, beg R ft.
- B 1-8 Ptnrs join both hands across, staying directly face to face with ptrnr and keeping arms straight while pulling away from ptrnr. Cpls turn once CW with 4 Zambay Skip Steps, then reverse direction and turn once CCW with 4 Zambay Skip Steps.
9-15 Repeat action of above meas 1-7, turning CW and CCW.
16 Drop hands, and return to place facing ptrnr with 1 Zambay Skip Step.

FIGURE IV CHANGE PLACES AND ARMS OUTSTRETCHED CIRCLE

- A 1-6 Facing ptrnr, do 6 Zambay Two Steps, beg R ft.
7-8 With 2 Zambay Two Steps beg R ft, ptrnr move to face each other in a single circle, M facing LOD and W facing RLOD.
9-14 Facing ptrnr in above pos, do 6 Zambay Two Steps beg R ft.
15-16 With 2 Zambay Two Steps beg R ft, move back to original places facing ptrnr in double circle.
- B 1-8 Ptnrs join hands across with R arms outstretched and L elbows bent and circle once CW with 4 Zambay Skip Steps. Then change pos of hands and circle once CCW with 4 Zambay Skip Steps.
9-15 Repeat action of above meas 1-7, turning CW and CCW.
16 Drop hands, and return to place facing ptrnr with 1 Zambay Skip Step.

FIGURE V FOLLOWING EACH OTHER AND MOVING FORWARD

- A 1-8 M follows directly behind W as she moves in a CCW circle with 8 Zambay Two Steps beg R ft.
9-16 W follows directly behind M as he moves in a CW circle with 8 Zambay Two Steps beg R ft.
- B 1-16 Ptnrs join inside hands and face LOD. Ptnrs move in LOD with 16 Zambay Skip Steps, outside hands waving in and out head high. (These final skips correspond to the moving on of the dancers to dance in a new position when the CARNAVAL parade stops again).

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