

EL CARNAVALITO

A folk dance from Northern Argentina that has been danced by these people for such a long time that it has evolved into various types suiting the social level of the dancers. The Indians dance it in a simple monotonous form which is very primitive and probably uninteresting to the modern dancer. In the sophisticated ballrooms it has become a very elaborate dance with many figures that have been adapted from European dances until it has practically lost its nationality. Amongst the rural population the dance is found in its purest form, retaining a loyalty to step and pattern though any ritualistic meaning that it originally had has been lost. (the patterns here presented are danced by the mountain people in Jujuy.) This dance is so easily influenced by the dancers' social and cultural status because it is not a dance for the individual but rather it is a group experience of moving together in the figures that are called or signaled by the leader who is also dancing.

Source: Manual de Danzas Nativas by P. Berruti
 El Carnavalito by Carlos Vegas
 Dances of Argentina by A. L. Loyd
 Records and books obtained through courtesy of Charles and Beth Fawkes of Chicago.

Music: Written music in books listed above
 Capitol OP - Carnavalitos of Argentina # T 10004
 (4 different bands may be used for Carnavalitos).

Formation: About 8 or 10 couples in a circle facing CW. M has his partner on his R her L arm through his R arm. M are on outside of circle, leader carries a ribbon or handkerchief to signal the changes.

Step: A simple trotting step is used throughout. One step to each beat of music. Lift the knees slightly and vary the length of the step to the need for covering distance in each pattern. The movement is lively and vigorous, the spirit is gay.

Music is 4/8 tempo - measures used for each step may vary according to the number of people in the circle. Measures here indicated are for the music "Carnavalito" band 1, side 1 of Capitol LP T 10004.

<u>Meas.</u>	<u>Pattern</u>
4	Introduction - dancers stand in place.
	I. El Circulo
4	All couples dance CW around the circle, when leader arrives at center back he gives a signal (with his kerchief or may shout "Giro")
1	All couples simultaneously turn CCW in place; couples remain side by side the M moving bkwd, the W fwd. The lead couple completes this turn facing the center but all other couples face LOD.
	II. Las Alas (The Wings)
5	Lead couple dances side by side in the center of the circle. All other couples continue CW around the circle until they reach center back where they follow the lead down the center. On reaching the center front each couple separates the M to the L and the W to the R around the circle to meet partner again at center bk. (While traveling around to meet

El CarnavalitoMeas. Pattern

partner dancers clap their Hs. The elbows are kept at the sides, fore arms raised, palm of LH twd face, clap RH into LH.

III. El Puente (The Bridge)

- 10 When partners meet they join inside Hs and again dance dn the center. When lead couple reach center front they release Hs and turn in twd each other the M puts his L arm through his partner's R arm, and they dance under the bridge formed by the other dancers raising their joined Hs. Each couple on reaching the front turns in twd partner and follows the lead couple under the bridge to the bk and into a CW circle as in Fig I, but the W is on the outside, and the circle should be much smaller.

IV. El Circulo II

- 4 When the circle is completely formed the leader signals and partners release arms. The W turn away from partner and circle about $3/4$ CCW by themselves to join Hs in a circle and travel CCW. At the same time the M move slightly twd the center and join Hs continuing CW around the circle. The M's circle is inside the W's circle. The contrary moving circles continue moving until partners are again adjacent.

V. La Canasta (The Basket)

- 4 M raise joined Hs and move bkwd while W move fwd Hs still joined under partner's R arm. M lower their arms behind the W's bk to form a basket which moves CW until the lead couple is at center bk.

VI. Los Volteretas (The Twirls)

- 1 All release Hs and hook ~~R~~ elbow with partner (M R, W L)
 1 All couples simultaneously turn CCW in place; the M moving bkwd and the W fwd. M now hook L elbows with the W at their L and the circle travels CW $1/4$ distance around.
 2
 9 Repeat above 3 meas 3 times traveling $1/4$ distance around the circle after each turn. The leader signals when the turn occurs when he reaches the cardinal points in the circle and ends at the center back. On the last turn partners unlink elbows and join hands.

VII. El Caracol (The Snail)

- 9 All M now join Hs with the W at their L except the leader who moves slightly twd the center and draws the line after him into a smaller and smaller circle (like a snail shell). Before this is too close he turns to his L and drawing the line after him uncoils the spiral.

VIII.

- 6 When the leader is out of the spiral and at the center bk he releases his partner's H and turns himself around to the L in place, while his partner releasing Hs with the M. behind her moves fwd to his side and takes his R arm. They move fwd side by side CCW around the circle. Each M does this turn

El Carnavalito (continued)Meas.Pattern

and his partner moves up to his side as they reach the center back until all are traveling around the circle CCW - as in Figure I except in the opposite direction.

--presented by Grace Perryman

J. J. J.