

RANCHERA

(Argentina)

The "Ranchera" is an Argentine waltz which was brought to the local folk dancers by Dr. Juan Rael, a Stanford professor, and his daughter, Maria.

MUSIC: Record: Imperial 1085

FORMATION: Cpls in a double circle facing LOD, in Back Skating Position; M R hand holding W R hand on her R hip, their L hands joined and extended in front to the L.

Although the dance is performed in one large circle, the cpls are numbered off, about 12 to 15 cpls to a unit. The #1 cpl for each unit is designated before the dance begins.

STEPS AND STYLING: Basic Step: The Argentine waltz step is the basic step and is used throughout the dance. This is an accented waltz, the first step taken on the whole ft with slight bend of the knee, and the latter two steps taken on the ball of the ft: Take a rather long step with L on the full ft (ct 1), a shorter step on the ball of R ft (ct 2), a short step on the ball of L ft (ct 3).

There is a "down, up, up" feeling to this action. The 3 cts may be cued "flat, ball, ball". Cpls begin on outside ft (ML-WR) and continue on opp ft throughout the dance. At no time are they on the same ft.

NOTE: Keep the body erect. THERE IS NO SAMBA MOVEMENT in this dance!

MUSIC 3/4

PATTERN

Measures

5 notes &
3 meas.

INTRODUCTION

I. BASIC STEP FORWARD

1-12 Beginning ML-WR, dance 12 basic steps moving fwd LOD. Dancers should travel a considerable distance during this Fig.

II. WOMAN TURNS

Cpls continue moving in LOD during this action.

1-4 M: Release W R hand and, beginning L, move fwd with 4 basic steps.

W: Keep R hand on hip and make a slow turn R (CW) in front of ptr; Beginning R, pass a little to the L across in front of M (meas 1); complete the CW turn under raised joined L hands (meas 2 & 3); finish at M R side in original pos, R hands joined on W R hip (meas 4).

5-16 Repeat action of meas 1-4 (Fig II) 3 times (4 times in all).

III. COUPLES TURN IN PLACE

1-8 Continuing in Back Skating pos, turn L (CCW) once in place, slowly (M move bwd, W fwd) with 8 basic steps.

9-16 Cpl turn once CW, M move fwd, W bwd, with 8 basic steps. Finish

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Mildred Buhler, Miriam Lidster, Adrienne Murton, Dorothy Tamburini

RANCHERA (concluded)

facing LOD.

On last count 3 take modified closed position.

IV. BASIC STEP, WOMAN PIVOTING

- 1 Beginning ML-WR, dance fwd in LOD with one basic step, but on ct 3 M turn W to face RLOD, as she pivots 1/2 turn CCW on her R ft.
- 2 Beginning MR-WL (W moving bwd) continue in LOD with 1 basic step. On ct 3 M turn W to face LOD, as she pivots 1/2 CW on her L ft.
- 3-12 Repeat action of meas 1-2 (Fig IV) five times. In all there are 12 basic steps, with W always pivoting on ct 3.
- 13-16 Take Back Skating pos and beginning ML-WR, dance 4 basic steps fwd in LOD.

V. THE TUNNEL

- 1-13 a. Cpls #1 turn back (M remain on inside of circle) joining inside hands (ML-WR) in an arch, outside hands on hips. Travel CW (RLOD) in the circle going back over the other cpls in their unit, each cpl in succession turning and following cpl #1 in forming the tunnel. When Cpl #1 reaches the end of the line they lead back through the tunnel, taking Back Skating pos as they start through. Each cpl follow through the tunnel and out into the circle again.
- There are 13 basic steps in this action. On meas 13 M step LR, W-RL (cts 1,2), hold (ct 3).
- 1-16 b. Beg ML-WR, cpls dance fwd in LOD to reform the circle as in Fig I.

VI. TO CENTER AND BACK

- 1-4 a. All face ctr and release ptr. M clasp hands easily in back and beginning L, dance 4 short basic steps bwd away from ctr of circle. W place hands on hips and beginning R, dance fwd twd ctr with 4 rather long basic steps.
- 5-8 Beginning M fwd on L, W bwd on R, return to pos in circle.
- 1-8 b. Take Back Skating pos and repeat action of Fig III, meas 1-8 (CCW turn in place.)
- 9-16 Repeat action of meas 1-8 (Fig VI-a.)
- 1-8 c. In modified closed pos, repeat action of Fig IV, meas 1-8 (8 basic steps with W pivoting).

VII. WOMAN CIRCLES MAN

Ptrs join L hands; M place R hand low on his back, W hold skirt out with R hand. M face LOD.

- 1-12 Cpl travel slowly in LOD while W circles M three times (CCW) using 4 basic steps to make each circle. Finish with M back twd ctr of circle, W facing ctr.

On the last beat of the final step, W swish skirt to L across between them, ending in pose with L hands still joined.