

VIRA DO SITO (Portugal)

The research on Vira Do Sitio (VEE-rah Due SEE-tee-oh) was done in Portugal by Madelynn Greene in 1962, and she introduced the dance at the 1969 Statewide Festival. Sitio is the hamlet of Nazaré, situated on the cliff which dominates the village. This is an area of fishermen, and they dance barefooted on the sand - a fast, running waltz, at such speed that the dancers lean far in toward the center as they move in very fast circles - and just this circling brings rounds of applause.

MUSIC: Record: Unidisc EX-45222 M, Side 2, Band 1.

FORMATION: An even number of cpls (preferably 10 or 12) in a double circle, M on inside, W on outside. Cpls are numbered 1-2, 1-2, etc, as they face LOD, so that #2 follows #1.

STEPS AND STYLING: A "running" waltz step is used throughout the dance (one step to each ct of music, with no closing steps, and with slight accent on ct 1 of each meas), at a good, lively temp. Body sways a lot (but do not dip shoulder), and fingers snap on 1st ct of each meas. throughout dance. Hands are held at a little above ear level, slightly fwd, elbows slightly bent. Ftwrk is same for both M and W.

NOTE: The dance is divided into sections as follows:

Music A - 15 meas; Music B - 9 meas;
Music C - 15 meas; Music B - 9 meas;
Music D - 15 meas; Music E - 16 meas;
Music E - 16, plus 1 meas.

MUSIC 3/4

PATTERN

Measures

"Pickup" notes plus 3 meas. INTRODUCTION (Ptrs stand facing each other, M on inside, W on outside).
No action.

A I. WALTZ IN BIG CIRCLE

1-8 Beginning R, all dance to own R (M-CW, W-CCW) around the big circle with 8 waltz steps, at same time turning CW individually, completing 1 turn in each 2 waltz steps.
9-15 Without stopping, and again beginning R, all move to own L (M-CCW, W-CW) with 7 waltz steps, at same time turning CCW individually.

B II. CHANGING PLACES WITH PARTNER

1-2 Facing ptr, all dance 2 waltz steps in place (L,R), snapping fingers and letting body sway freely.
3-4 Ptrs exchange places with 2 waltz steps (move fwd on 1st waltz, passing R shoulders and watching ptr as they turn 1/2 CW. Move bkwd into opp place on 2nd waltz).
5-8 Repeat action of meas 1-4 to return to own places. Clap own hands once, about chest high, on last ct (ct 3) of meas 8.
9 Clap own hands once (ct 1).
NOTE: This makes two quick claps, (ct 3, ct 1).

C III. CIRCLE OF FOUR CCW

1-15 Each unit of 2 cpls move CCW in a small circle with 15 waltz steps, beginning R, going twice around. End in own places.

VIRA DO SITIO (continued)

B IV. CHANGING PLACES WITH PARTNER

1-9 Repeat action of Fig II.

D V. CIRCLE OF FOUR CW

1-15 Repeat action of Fig III, beginning L and moving CW. End in own places, facing ctr of set.

E VI. VIRA CRUZADA

M1 is now facing W2 and dances the Vira Cruzada with her, while M2 is facing W1, and dances with her. All begin R.

M1 and W2

M2 and W1

1-2 Dance 2 waltz steps fwd twd each other, turning body slightly twd R to end L shoulders twd each other (almost touching).

Dance 2 waltz steps in place, turning a little to the R on the 1st one, and then to the L.

3-4 Retracing steps, dance 2 waltz steps bkwd to place, turning body slightly twd L to end R shoulder twd ctr of set.

Dance 2 waltz steps fwd twd each other, turning body slightly twd R to end L shoulders twd each other (almost touching).

5-6 With slightly longer steps, move twd each other with 1 waltz step. Pass face to face, L shoulder leading, making 1/2 turn CW with 1 waltz step.

Retracing steps, dance 2 waltz steps bkwd to place, turning body slightly twd L to end R shoulder twd ctr of set.

7-8 Move bkwd into opp place with 2 waltz steps.

With slightly longer steps, move twd each other with 1 waltz step. Pass face to face, L shoulder leading, making 1/2 turn CW with 1 waltz step. (Use longer steps on meas 6 to not only turn into opp place, but to move bkwd, away from each other).

End with M on outside, W on inside.

9-16 Instead of dancing the Vira Cruzada with the same person as before, it will now be done with a person in the neighboring set. For M1 and W2, it is the "neighbor" to the L of each. For M2 and W1, it is the "neighbor" to the R of each. These new sets of 4 dance the Vira Cruzada as described in meas 1-8, Fig VI. End with M on inside, W on outside.

E 1-8 Working with this same new set, repeat action of meas 1-8, Fig VI, ending with M on outside, W on inside, in their original sets.

9-17 Working in the original sets of 4, repeat action of meas 1-8, Fig VI, to return to original places. Clap own hands once (ct 3, meas 16), and once more (ct 1, meas 17). (Two quick claps).

Repeat dance from beginning.

Repeat Fig I and II (music is slightly faster).