

JOTA ARAGONESA

(Spain)

This jota was arranged and introduced by Madelynne Greene at the University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp in 1957. There are many steps in the Jota Aragonesa but these, chosen for this arrangement, are thought to be most suitable for a large group to dance.

MUSIC: Record: Imperial 1001, "La Madre del Cordero" (should be slowed);
Victor 30926, "La Madre del Cordero"
Decca 10331-B "La Madre del Cordero"

Note: Although these recordings may currently be unavailable, many folk dancers do have them. The dance is being published in answer to many requests.

Piano: "La Madre del Cordero" Edward B. Marks Music Corp., RCA Building,
Radio City, New York

FORMATION: Circle of cpls, ptrs facing; M on inside with back to ctr, W on outside facing ctr. Arms are curved upward and slightly fwd.

STEPS AND STYLING: Jota Step L (2 meas): Spring onto both ft, bending knees, toes turned out and L heel near R instep (cts 1, 2); hop on R while raising bent L leg out to L side (ct 3). Step L back of R, starting to travel to own R (meas 2, ct 1); step R to R side (ct 2); step L across in front of R (ct 3). Jota Step R would start with R heel near L instep and R leg being raised. Movement would be to own L.

Chiapanecas Step (4 meas): Step L (ct 1), hop L (ct 2), step R in front of L (ct 3); step L (ct 1), hop L (ct 2), step R back of L (ct 3); step L (ct 1), hop L (ct 2), step R in front of L (ct 3); run fwd with 3 steps, LRL (cts 1, 2, 3). Next pattern would begin with step on R.

Pas de Basque (on toes): Low leap to R on R (ct 1), step L in front of R (ct 2), step R in place (ct 3). Next step begins with low leap to L on L.

Heel Pas de Basque: Same as Pas de Basque except that on ct 2 the heel is placed on the floor instead of the toe.

Little Scissors (4 meas):

- Meas 1: Step on R and point L toe fwd, knee turned out and inside of ankle twd ptr (ct 1), hold (cts 2, 3).
- Meas 2: Step on L and point R toe fwd, knee turned out and inside of ankle twd ptr (ct 1), hold (cts 2, 3).
- Meas 3: Step on R and point L toe fwd, inside of ankle twd ptr (ct 1); step on L and point R toe fwd, inside of ankle twd ptr (ct 2); step on R and point L toe fwd, inside of ankle twd ptr (ct 3).
- Meas 4: Repeat action of meas 2.

Big Scissors (4 meas):

- Meas 1: Step R (ct 1); and raise L knee, extending ft and leg fwd (cts 2, 3).
- Meas 2: Step L (ct 1); raise R knee, extending ft and leg fwd (cts 2, 3).
- Meas 3: Kick fwd, toe pointed, L (ct 1), R (ct 2), L (ct 3).
- Meas 4: Repeat action of meas 2.

Deep Knee Bends:

- Meas 1: Start facing ptr. Step R sdwd R, making 1/4 turn to R, bending knees so that L knee almost touches floor. Body follows weight-bearing ft (L shoulder twd ptr) but still look at ptr.
- Meas 2: Quickly make 1/2 turn to L, shifting wt to L and bending knees so that R knee almost touches floor, R shoulder twd ptr, but still looking at ptr.
- Meas 3: If a third Deep Knee Bend is used action would be same as described for meas 2, but the 1/2 turn would be to R and L knee would almost touch the floor.

Entire sequence could begin to L. Hands are in original pos but follow natural movement of body.

During the entire dance ptrs keep arms out to sides, curved upwd and slightly fwd. Hands are cupped. Sometimes castanets are used but snapping the fingers is effective. The body follows the movement of the arms. The dance is gay and flirtatious.

Measures

1-10 INTRODUCTION

Cpls stand facing each other in a double circle, M inside, W outside. Arms are curved and slightly fwd.

I. JOTA

1-2 Facing ptr, move in a CCW arc with 1 Jota Step L

3-4 Facing ptr, move in a CW arc with 1 Jota Step R.

5-12 Repeat action of meas 1-4 twice.

13-14 Repeat action of meas 1-2. (7 Jota Steps in all).

II. PAS DE BASQUE FACING PTR

1-8 Still facing ptr and beginning with low leap onto R, circle CW with 8 Pas de Basque steps.

9-16 Still facing ptr and beginning with low leap onto R, circle CCW with 8 Pas de Basque steps. End in orig places.

17 Stamp R (ct 1). Chug bkwd on R (ct 2). Stamp L a little fwd (ct 3).

18 Stamp R beside L (ct 1). Hold (cts 2, 3).

III. CHIAPANECAS

1-4 Beginning with step on L, dance 1 Chiapanecas pattern, moving fwd on the running steps to pass R shoulders with ptr. Turn R to face ptr on ct 3 of meas 4.

5-8 Beginning with step on R, dance 1 Chiapanecas pattern, passing L shoulders with ptr. Turn L to face ptr on ct 3 of meas 4.

9-12 Repeat action of meas 1-4 (Fig III) but only M turn R.

End M behind W, both facing ctr.

JOTA 2

IV. HEEL PAS DE BASQUE

1-8 W move fwd twd ctr. M follow her trying to catch her eye. Beginning R, dance 8 Heel Pas de Basques. Each turn R on meas 8 to reverse direction and pos.

9-16 Beginning R, dance 8 Heel Pas de Basque steps moving away from ctr. W follow M. On meas 16 M only turn R to end ptrs facing, W back to ctr.

V. LITTLE SCISSORS

1-16 Facing ptr dance 4 Little Scissors patterns.

Note: During this Fig there may be a little bkwd movement. If so, during Fig VI (Big Scissors) move fwd the same distance.

VI. BIG SCISSORS

1-12 Facing ptr, dance 3 big Scissors patterns.

13-14 Dance meas 1-2 only of Big Scissors pattern.

VII. DEEP KNEE BENDS AND ONE TURN

1 Preparation: Place R ft next to L (ct 1). Hold (cts 2, 3).