

LA MAZURCA MEXICANA

(Mexico)

During the second half of the 19th century many of the older types of Mexican dances were replaced in the salons by newer dance forms from Europe, such as the polka, schottische, mazurka, and waltz. In time they were also performed in the public dance halls of the cities. "La Mazurca Mexicana" (pronounced Lah Ma-SOOR-kah May-hee-CAH-nah) is a form of La Varsoviana, which was widely danced in Mexico during this period. Many different forms appeared in various parts of the country. The dance was presented by Al Pill at the University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp, Stockton, California, in 1966.

MUSIC: Record: Peerless LP, 1097 "Mexican Regional Dances" Side B, band 1.

FORMATION: Cpls facing CCW around the room in a circle. Inside hands are joined at shoulder height. W is to R of her ptr and holds her skirt at the side with R hand; M free hand behind his back, palm out.

STEPS AND STYLING: Waltz Balance: Leap lightly onto L ft (ct 1), close R to L (ct 2), step L in place (ct 3). Repeat, starting with leap onto R. Steps are rather small, with a soft knee-bend on cts 1 and 3.

Valseado Step: Step fwd on L ft (ct 1), close R to L (ct 2), step L in place (ct 3). The next Valseado Step would be: step bwd R (ct 1), close L to R (ct 2), step R in place (ct 3). A soft knee-bend on cts 1 and 3 gives a slightly bouncy character.

Although retaining some of the dignity of ballroom dances of the period, the Mexican version is danced in a relaxed manner.

MUSIC 3/4

PATTERN

Measures

1-4 INTRODUCTION. No action.

I. WALTZ BALANCE AND RUN FWD

- A 1 Beginning ML and WR, dance 1 Waltz Balance Step in place, slightly back-to-back.
2 Dance 1 Waltz Balance step in place, MR and WL, slightly face-to-face.
3 Run fwd in LOD with 3 light running steps (M: L,R,L and W: R,L,R).
4 A slight stamp on MR and WL ft, taking wt (ct 1), hold (cts 2-3).
5-8 Repeat action of meas 1-4.
1-8 Repeat action of meas 1-8. On last meas M lead W into varsouvienne pos,
(repeated) facing LOD.

II. WINDOWS

- B 9 Keeping hands joined, dance 3 walking steps, W: L,R,L moving to L, and M: R,L,R moving to R.
10 With hands still joined, L high and R low to form a "window", each make a 1/4 turn to point ML and WR toe twd ptr. Acknowledge ptr with a slight bow as toe is pointed.
11-12 Repeat action of meas 9-10 (Fig II) with opp footwork, M moving to L, W to R, forming "window" with raised R hands and lowered L hands.
13-16 Repeat action of meas 9-12 (Fig II).
9-16 Repeat action of meas 9-16 (Fig II). On last meas assume modified social dance pos:
(repeated) Join ML and WR hands, but place MR and WL hands on ptr upper arm just above the elbow. Ptrs face each other, W facing ctr of dancing area.

III. VALSEADO

- C 17-24 Cpls dance 8 Valseado Steps in place, M beginning fwd on L and W back on R,
17-24 Continue dancing 8 more Valseado steps in the same pos, cpl turning once in place CW.
(repeated) Repeat the dance from the beginning two more times.