

LAS VIRGINIAS

(Mexican)

Las Virginias (Las Veer-hee-ne-ahs) comes from the state of Durango. The music and dance are of Basque origin and were brought to Mexico by the many Basque people who settled in the state of Durango.

Although once widely danced in this region of Mexico, the dance is now almost extinct. Eligio Herreram, a native of Durango, and now director of the Padua Hills Theater in Claremont, California, reconstructed the dance with the help of his sister and of friends in his rural home town of Durango. This dance was presented by Al Pill in 1958 at the Santa Barbara Folk Dance Conference.

The Basque influence is evident in the origin of the dance and in the music, but the style of the dance has a definite Mexican character.

MUSIC: Record: ASP 109 'Las Virginias'

FORMATION: Ptrs facing in a double circle, M back to ctr. M clasp hands behind back; W hold skirt.

STEPS: Walking*, Skipping*, Two-steps*, Stamp.

Footwork is the same for M and W throughout the dance.

* Described in "Folk Dances From Near and Far" Vols. I-VIII.

MUSIC 4/4

PATTERN

Measures

Chord INTRODUCTION

I. IN LINES

Watch ptr throughout this Fig.

- upbeat Turning 1/4 R, lift R leg fwd, knee straight (ct &)
1 With knee straight, stamp on R taking wt (ct 1). M moving RLOD- W LOD, step fwd L R (cts 2-3). Bending body fwd from waist and raising L knee, chug bwd on R turning slightly twd ptr (ct 4).
- 2 Turn once to own R with 4 walking steps (L, R, L, R).
- 3 Repeat action of meas 1, beginning L and moving in opp direction.
- 4 Turn once to own L with 4 walking steps (R, L, R, L).
- 5-8 Repeat action of meas 1-4.

II. THE SKIPS

- 1 Ptrs approach each other with 2 skipping steps, R L (cts 1-2) and move bwd away from each other with 2 skipping steps, R L (cts 3-4).
- 2 Turn once in place to own R with 2 skipping steps, R L (cts 1-2); stamp R L R, in place (cts 3 & 4).
- 3-4 Repeat action of meas 1-2 (Fig II) beginning L and turning L.
- 5-8 Repeat action of meas 1-4 (Fig II).

III. CROSS-OVER UNDER JOINED HANDS

- 1 Ptrs join R hands and beginning R exchange places with 2 two-steps, M making 1/2 turn R while W turns 1/2 L under joined hands. Finish ptrs facing, R still joined.
- 2 Release joined hands. M continue turning R (1 turn) with 1 two-step, beginning R; then stamp L R L in place facing ptr. W does same as M except that she continues turning to her L.

- 3-4 Repeat action of meas 1-2 (Fig III), returning to own places.
 5-8 Repeat action of meas 1-4 (Fig III). No wt on last stamp (meas 8).

IV. SOLO CROSS-OVER

Ptrs move fwd to exchange places, passing R shoulders.

- 1 Stamp L ft across R at same time lifting R ft to rear of body with R knee bent (ct 1), step back onto R in place (ct 2), step L fwd and to L (ct 3), stamp R ft across L at same time lifting L to rear of body with L knee bent (ct 4). There is some fwd movement on this meas.
- 2 Step back onto L in place (ct 1), take a big step fwd on R, with leg straight, to complete the exchange of places (ct 2), stamp L ft across R at same time lifting R ft to rear of body with R knee bent (ct 3), step back onto R in place (ct 4).
- 3 Ptrs now move back to original places, passing L shoulders.
 Step and pivot on L, making 1/2 turn to own L to fact ptr in exchanged places (ct 1), stamp R ft across L at same time lifting L ft to rear of body with L knee bent (ct 2), step back onto L in place (ct 3), take a big step fwd on R, with leg straight, to complete exchange of places (ct 4).
- 4 Repeat action of meas 1, cts 1-2 (Fig IV); step and pivot on L making 1/2 turn to own L to again face ptr in original places (ct 3), stamp R beside L, taking wt (ct 4).
- 5-8 Repeat action of meas 1-4 (Fig IV). No wt on stamp R (ct 4, meas 8).

V. MAKING THE TOWER

Ptrs join R, shoulder high. M free hand behind back, W hold skirt.

- 1 Stamp fwd twd ptr on R ft (ct 1), step on L toe with accent behind R heel (ct 2), lift body while rising on R toe and at the same time raising joined R hands straight up to eye level (ct 3), lower onto R heel and at same time lower hands to shoulder height (ct 4).
- 2 Step bwd from ptr on L ft (ct 1), touch R toe with accent in front of L ft (ct 2), hands still joined, exchange places with 2 walking steps, R L, making 1/2 turn CW (cts 3-4).
- 3-4 Repeat action of meas 1-2 (Fig V) returning to original places.
- 5-8 Repeat action of meas 1-4 (Fig V), except that on final 2 cts of meas 8 M makes 1/4 turn R and W 1/4 turn L to finish facing LOD, W on M L (on inside of circle). Assume Varsouvianna pos, W on M L.

VI. TURNS IN VARSOUVIANNA POSITION

Cpls move fwd LOD in this Figure.

- 1 Lift R ft with knee bent, at same time chugging lightly bwd on L (ct 1), W move to M R side by making 1 turn to own L (CCW) under joined R hands with 3 walking steps (RLR), while M changes places with ptr by walking R L R. Finish in Varsouvianna pos, W on M R (cts 2-4).
- 2 Lift L ft with knee bent, at same time chugging lightly bwd on R (ct 1), W move to M L side by making 1 turn to own R under raised joined L with 3 walking steps (LRL), while M changes places with ptr by walking L R L. (cts 2-4). Finish in Varsouvianna pos as in beginning of Fig VI, W on M L.
- 3-8 Repeat action of meas 1-2 (Fig VI) 3 times more. On meas 8, W turns 3/4 CW turn in place, (under joined hands) to finish ptrs facing, W on outside, M back to ctr. Release hands.

VII. IN LINES, AROUND EACH OTHER, FINALE

- 1-4 Repeat action of Fig I, meas 1-4.
- 5-7 During these 3 meas ptrs make 1 complete CW circle around each other (R shoulder twd ptr) with the following footwork: Step fwd onto R heel (ct 1), step L toe back of R ft (ct &), step fwd on R ft (ct 2), step fwd onto L heel (ct 3), step R toe back of L ft (ct &), step fwd on L ft (ct 4). Repeat action of these 4 cts two times more. Finish in own place, facing ptr.
- 8 Turn individually to own R with 3 walking steps, R L R (cts 1-3), M bow and W curtsy (ct 4).