

Mi Nada Um Ca Tem

(Cape Verde)

Mi Nada Um Ca Tem (MEE NAH-dah OOM KAH TEHM) was choreographed by Tineke and Maurits van Geel after research in the Cape Verdean community in Rotterdam. The name of the dance comes from the song title which means “I have nothing.”

Cape Verde is officially the Republic of Cabo Verde, an archipelago and island country in the central Atlantic Ocean, consisting of ten islands approximately 400 nautical miles west of Africa. Its 480,000+ inhabitants speak Portuguese. There are far more Cape Verdeans living outside Cape Verde than on the islands themselves.

The singer is Maria de Barros, born 1961 in Senegal. Her parents are from Cape Verde. She grew up in Mauritania, and her family moved to Rhode Island when she was 11, where she connected more closely with her heritage in the local Cape Verdean community. She is also fluent and has recorded songs in several languages, including her native Portuguese and Cape Verdean Creole, French, Spanish, German, and English.

- Music 4/4 meter The song is sung by Maria Barros and is readily available for download on YouTube, Spotify, Amazon Music, Apple Music, and other websites.
- Video *2019 Stockton Folk Dance Camp DVD*. Camp videos can be viewed by contacting a Camp participant who purchased it.
- Formation: Pairs of dancers facing each other in long lines or in an open circle. Dancers can also dance alone.
- Steps & Styling Arms are held at shoulder level or even higher, and improvisation is an important ingredient, including twisting, bending at the waist, flirting, and strutting. The African influences are clear.

Meas	4/4 meter	PATTERN
9 meas	INTRODUCTION. Freestyle improvisation. Begin when the woman starts singing the “CAO” of “Parque tanto preocupacao.”	
	THE BASIC DANCE.	
1	Step R to R (ct 1); step L next to R (ct 2); step R to R (ct 3); touch L toe next to R (ct 4); lower left heel (ct &).	
2	Step L next to R (ct 1); touch R next to L (ct 2); step R next to L (ct 3); touch L next to R (ct 4).	
3-4	Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk and direction.	
5	Beg R, four walking steps bkwd, away from ptr (cts 1-4).	
6	Beg R, four walking steps fwd, twd ptr (cts 1-4).	
7-8	Beg R, eight walking steps around ptr, passing R shldr, moving R to pass back to back, and backing up passing L shldr. This is similar to dos-a-dos.	

There are three variations to be determined by the dancers:

Variation 1: Meas 5 and 6: Step (ct 1), drag (ct 2), step (ct 3), drag (ct 4).

Variation 2: Meas 5 and 6: Double-time Variation 1.

Variation 3: Meas 7 and 8: Improvise using turns, flirting with ptr.

Mi Nada Um Ca Tem — continued

Lyrics (Translation by Sally Jenkins)

Paque tanto preocupação
Si nada um ca tem
Mi nada um ca tem
Paque tenta maguam

Why so much concern
If I have not a single thing
I have nothing
Why try to hurt?

A mi e pobre e confortado
Ca mal tadjado
Ca malcriado
Cham conforta cu nha probresa
Pamo mi nada, um ca tem

I am poor and comfortable
I don't get in people's way
I am not rude
Let me be consoled with my poverty
Because I have nothing

Mi nada um ca tem
Paque tenta maguam
Tudo gente cre so magua alguém
Um cre vive na paz di Deus
E tudo qu'um cre

I have nothing
Why try to hurt
Everybody thinking only to hurt someone.
One believes to live in the peace of God.
It's everything that one believes

E tudo u'um cre
Vive na paz di Deus

It's everything that one believes
Live in the peace of God

