

RANCHERA

(Uruguay)

Ranchera has been danced at all Uruguayan festivities since about 1850. Its lively tune has made it a most popular dance -- sometimes called the "chaircleaner" because during the dance all chairs are left empty. It is also danced in southern Brazil where they have added their own characteristics. It was learned by Nelda Drury from Laura Zanzi de Chavarria of Uruguay. It was presented by Nelda at the 1974 University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp.

MUSIC: Record: Folk Dancer MH 45-1131A

FORMATION: Cpls scattered informally around the room, side-by-side, W to R of M. Both face one wall designated "front", and begin dance facing that wall with inside hands joined. Outside hands are relaxed at sides.

STEPS: Waltz step.* Use long gliding steps, directions are for M, W use opp footwork.

*Described in Volume A-1 of Folk Dances from Near and Far, published by the Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc., 1095 Market St., Rm. 213, San Francisco, CA 94103.

MUSIC 3/4

PATTERN

Measures

3 notes INTRODUCTION

I. FWD & BACK

1-2 Start with outside feet, M L, W R; dance two waltz steps fwd turning in twd ptr to face opp direction and changing hands on last two cts.

3-4 Repeat in opp direction, turning only enough to face ptr.

5 Balance to L (step side L, step R behind L, step L in place) moving joined hands fwd.

6 Repeat action of meas 5 to R starting on R moving joined hands back.

7-8 Turn L away from ptr with four steps (cts 1,2,3,1) clep hands on meas 8, ct 2.

9-16 Repeat action of meas 1 to 8.

II. SQUARE

1-4 In closed pos, with heads close together, dance fwd two waltz steps; then with two more waltz steps turn CW 3/4 to face L wall.

5-16 Repeat action of meas 1-4 three more times, on last turn M roll CW across to W R to end facing "back" wall in open pos.

RANCHERA (continued)

III. FWD & BACK TO BACK WALL

1-16 Repeat action of Fig. 1 with W to L of M facing "back" wall.

IV. WALTZ

1-16 In closed pos waltz free style around the floor.

V. CHANGE PLACES

1-8 With W R hand in M L change places with one waltz step, W turning R under joined hands. Then do one waltz in place leaning or pulling away from each other. Repeat three more times.

VI. FLIRTING WALTZ

1-8 Do one waltz step to change places, assume varsouvienne pos on ct 1, ending with W to R of M. Look at each other over W shldr. Alternate from side to side for a total of 8 changes. Stay in one place on floor.

VII. TRAVELING FLIRTING WALTZ

1-8 Repeat action of Part VI moving freely about the room. On change eight adjust to face "front" wall in open pos W to R of M.

VIII. FWD & BACK

1-14 Repeat action of Fig. 1 except for last two meas.

15-16 Turn L away from ptr four steps (cts 1,2,3,1) clap and bow.