

EL GATO CORDOBÉS

Argentina

El Gato, comes from the dance traditions of Peru, Chile, Argentina and Uruguay. Argentines first danced it in the early part of the 19th century and still dance it today. This particular version comes from Córdoba, Argentina. Ed Austin first observed it in Montevideo, Uruguay in 1994, and later learned it from Graciela Torino Meyers, from Buenos Aires, Argentina.

TRANSLATION: The cat

PRONUNCIATION: ehl GAH-toh

FORMATION: Couples, facing with arms joined at shoulder height, palms up, ready to snap fingers.

MUSIC: Statewide, Las Vegas 2001—"Folk Dance Classics"

STEP: Basic step, traveling: Step flat L (ct 1), step ball R (ct 2), step flat L (ct 3). Reverse. The basic traveling step is danced smoothly, without bouncing.

This dance is meant to be flirtatious, and a bit mischievous. Snapping sequence: together, L-R-L (S-Q-Q-S)

METER: 3/4

PATTERN

Meas.

INTRODUCTION:

1-9 Enter the dance floor

Part A: Large & small circles

1-8 Dancers circumscribe a large circle: Beginning L, 4 steps to trade places, 4 steps to return home.

9-12 Dancers make a small circle: 2 steps to arrive at R sides, 2 steps to return home (M only do through the 3rd step and then begin the Zapateo of Part B)

Part B: Zarandeo/Zapateo & half circle

1-8 W dance Zarandeo: Dancing in a diamond, 2 steps to dance fwd (staying in front of the M), 2 steps to dance bkwd and diag-bkwd to return home

M dance Zapateo: Stomp R (ct 1), heel-ball L (ct 2-&), Step (R), reverse .

Repeat (The M's first zapateo step begins after the 3rd basic of the small circle)

9-12 Dancers circumscribe a large half circle: 4 steps to trade places (The M once again begin the Zapateo after the 3rd basic step)

PART C: Zarandeo/Zapateo & Crowning Turn

1-8 Repeat Zarandeo and Zapateo

9-12 Dancers begin the small circle dancing 2 steps to arrive at R sides, then in 1 step make a small individual turn to face partner. Finish by stepping R into partner and pose (W's arms slide between M's arms)

DANCE THE ENTIRE PATTERN A SECOND TIME

Dance notes by Ed Austin 5-01

Presented by Ed Austin
Las Vegas Statewide Institute
May 19-20, 2001