

RANCHERA

(Uruguay)

Background: Ranchera has been danced at all Uruguayan festivities since about 1850. Its lively tune has made it the most popular dance -- sometimes called the "chair-cleaner" because during the dance, all the chairs are left empty. It is also danced in southern Brazil where it has its own characteristics. It was learned from Laura Zanzi de Chavarria of Uruguay.

Record: FOLK DANCER MH 45-1131A 3/4 METER

Formation: Cpls scattered informally around the room, side-by-side, W on the R, both facing "front." Inside hands joined. Directions are for M, W uses opp ftwork. *OUTSIDE HANDS ARE RELAXED AT SIDES. ONE WALL IS DESIGNATED AS "FRONT" AND ALL BEGIN DANCE FACING THAT WALL.*

Basic Step: Waltz step. This is a gliding waltz, using long steps.

Meas NO MUSIC INTRODUCTION PATTERN

16 MEAS OF
DANCE

PART I.

START WITH OUTSIDE F.T.

Start with opp ft: Move fwd two waltz steps -- turn to face opp direction on last two cts (face ptr while turning, change hands). Repeat twd "home" pos, but turn only enough to finish facing ptr. Step side L, step on R behind L, step on L in place -- repeat to R, starting with R ft. Turn away from ptr with four steps, ~~hold~~ ^{CLAP} ct 5, ~~step~~ ^{HOLD} on ct 6. Repeat from the beginning. (Swing joined hands fwd and bkwd on 5th and 6th meas -- shoulder high.)

16 MEAS OF
DANCE

PART II. (Square)

AND 2 MORE

In semi-open ballroom pos: Do two waltz fwd turning CW 3/4 turn to face L wall. Repeat three more times, but on last turn end facing "back" wall, with M changing over to other side, W on his L.

16 MEAS OF
DANCE

PART III.

START WITH OUTSIDE F.T.

Repeat action of Part I. (Facing back wall, W to L of M.)

16 MEAS OF
DANCE

PART IV.

Waltz "free style" around the floor for 16 meas.

8 MEAS OF
DANCE

PART V.

M holds W R hand in his L. Change places with one waltz step -- W turns under joined hands to her R. One waltz step in place, facing ptr, at same time leaning or pulling away from each other. Repeat three more times, ~~assume Varsoviennne pos on last meas, with W on M L.~~

continued.

RANCHERA (continued)

8 MEAS OF PART VI. *ON THE 1ST WALTZ M LEADS W INTO VARSOUVIENNE POSITION ON HIS R.*
 DANCE Do one waltz step to change places with ptr (M to L, W to R).

(Look at ptr as you do this -- this is done in place.) Do seven of these. *ALTERNATING POS FROM SIDE TO SIDE. LOOK AT PARTNER OVER W SHOULDER EACH TIME*

8 MEAS OF PART VII.
 DANCE Repeat action of Part VI, but moving freely around the room -- pattern is not set. *USE LAST WALTZ TO ASSUME BEGINNING POSITION OF DANCE*

16 MEAS OF PART VIII.
 DANCE Repeat action of Part I. *AT END, CLAP ON CT 1 AND BOW TO PTR. ON CT 2 OF MEAS 16*

Presented by Nelda Drury *

*PRESENTED BY GRACE NICHOLS
 SONOMA, CALIF INSTITUTE
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