

# LAS CHIAPANECAS

(Mexico)

This dance (Chee-AH-Pah-NAY-kahs) was arranged by Señor Mariano Tapia, of the Palace of Fine Arts, Mexico City and introduced by Millie and Vernon von Konsky at the 1964 Folk Dance Conference of the University of Southern California, Idyllwild.

MUSIC: Record: Falcon FEP-29, Mariachi Nacional de Arcadio Elias

FORMATION: Dancers in 2 lines about 8 ft apart, M in one line with L shoulders twd music, W in opp line facing ptr. M clasp hands behind back, and W hold skirt high at both sides throughout the dance. Keep rounded arms extended swd with elbows out, unless otherwise directed. Skirt-work is described with each Fig of the dance.

STEPS AND STYLING: Riding Step (2 meas): Step fwd with L ft, toe turned out (ct 1), hop on L (ct 2), step fwd R (ct 3); step L slightly fwd (ct 1), hop on L (ct 2), step bwd R, toe out (ct 3). This step may also begin with R ft. When moving fwd, most of the travelling is done on ct 1 of meas 1.

Riding Step Variation with Stamp (4 meas):

Meas 1: Stamp L across behind R (ct 1), hop on L raising R over L instep, knee turned out (ct 2), step R slightly to R in front (ct 3).

Meas 2: Repeat action of meas 1, continuing to move twd R.

Meas 3-4: Step L (ct 1), hold (ct 2), stamp R L (cts 3, 1), hold (cts 2, 3). M only, clap while stamping. This step may also be used turning R (CW).

Beginning with stamp R across behind L, this step pattern may be used moving to L or turning L (CCW).

Riding Step with Grapevine (4 meas): Moving to L:

Meas 1-2: Beginning with step-hop on R, dance one Riding Step pattern in place.

Meas 3-4: Step R across in front of L (ct 1), step swd L with L (ct 2), step R across in back (ct 3); step L to L (ct 1), step R across in front (ct 2), hold (ct 3). When moving to R, begin Riding Step with step-hop on L.

Hook Waltz and Turn (2 meas): Moving fwd, step R L R (cts 1, 2, 3); small leap fwd onto L (ct 1); bending knees, hook R ft across behind L and make a full turn R (CW), shifting wt from R to L ft during pivot. Next pattern repeats exactly. To face opp direction turn 1-1/2 turns.

Riding Step With Twist (2 meas): Step L (ct 1); hop L, turning R knee and toe twd R, R heel over L instep (ct 2); step R beside L (ct 3). Step L (ct 1); hop L turning R knee in, R heel out with knee bent and toe raised from floor (ct 2); step R beside L (ct 3). This step pattern may also begin with step-hop on R. It may be used turning or moving fwd.

Balance, Leap and Turn (4 meas): Small leap to L with L (ct 1), step R beside L (ct 2), step L in place (ct 3). Small leap to R with R (ct 1), step L beside R (ct 2), step R in place (ct 3). Step L to L (ct 1); leap and turn L (full turn CCW), completing turn with step on R (cts 2, 3); step L beside R (ct 1), hold (cts 2, 3). (M clap twice at end of pattern (cts 3, 1), hold (cts 2, 3). This action is taken on the balls of the ft. When pattern begins R to R, turn is to the R (CW).

Stamp and Shake Step (4 meas): Stamp L slightly behind R (ct 1), raise R ft fwd with a quick shake (modified mazurka) while hopping on L (ct 2), step R ft in front of L (ct 3). Meas 2-3: Repeat action of meas 1 two more times. Meas. 4: Step L (ct 1), Leap R to R (ct 2), step L in front of R (ct 3). Next pattern begins with stamp R behind L.

cont

LA CHIAPANECAS (continued)

Stamp Ending (2 meas): Stamp L (ct 1), hold (ct 2), stamp R L (cts 3, 1) hold (cts 2, 3).

Running Waltz: Three light running steps per meas (cts 1, 2, 3) with slight accent on ct 1 of each meas.

Hop\* Leap\*

Throughout the dance, footwork is identical for M and W except in Figs III and VI.

\*Described in volumes of "Folk Dances From Near and Far", published by the Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc., 1095 Market St., San Francisco, California.

MUSIC 3/4

PATTERN

Measures

INTRODUCTION

Upbeat

Hold (cts 2, 3).

1-4

Both beginning R, stroll twd ptr with 4 steps (one step per meas) and make 1/2 turn R (CW) on last meas.

5-8

Return to own place with 2 steps (R L) and step R, turning R to face ptr (ct 1), hold (ct 2), stamp L R (cts 3, 1), hold (cts 2, 3).  
(Skirt: Both hands move skirt twd active ft.)

I. RIDING STEP

1-6

Both beginning L, dance 3 riding steps to exchange places with ptr. Pass R shoulders.

7-8

Turn 1/2 CW with 4 quick steps, LRLR (cts 1, 2, 3, 1); hold (cts 2, 3). No wt on last step.

9-16

Beginning R, repeat action of meas 1-8 (Fig I), returning to own place.

17-32

Repeat action of meas 1-16 (Fig I), except that on meas 31-32 dancers finish with Stamp Ending as they turn to face ptr.  
(Skirt: When step is fwd hands move fwd; when step is bwd, hands return to place.)

II. RIDING STEP VARIATION WITH STAMP AND TURN

1-4

Beginning with stamp L behind R and moving to own R, dance one pattern of Riding Step Variation With Stamp.

5-8

Beginning with stamp R behind L and moving to own L, dance one Riding Step Variation with Stamp.

9-14

Repeat action of meas 1-4 (Fig II) turning once CW in place.

13-16

Repeat action of meas 5-8 (Fig II), turning once CCW in place.  
(Skirt: On ct 1 move skirt to L; on ct 3, to R. Begin away from direction of travel.)

III. RIDING STEP WITH GRAPEVINE

This pattern is performed changing places with ptr, beginning with M L shoulder near W R shoulder, both with backs twd music.

1-4

Both move swd to exchange places with ptr with one Riding Step With Grapevine pattern; M begin step-hop with R, W with L ft. W cross in front of M.

5-8

Beginning step-hop with M L, W R, repeat action of meas 1-4 (Fig III) returning to own place, with M crossing in front.

*cont*



LAS CHIAPANECAS (continued)

- 9-16 Repeat action of meas 1-8 (Fig III), except that on last meas M turn 1/2 R stamping L R (cts 1, 2), no wt on R; hold (ct 3), to finish with R shoulder twd ptr.  
(Skirt: On Riding Step use skirt as in Fig I; on grapevine hold skirt with no movement.)

IV. HOOK-WALTZ AND TURN

- 1-4 Face ptr and both beginning R, change places with 2 Hook-Waltz and Turn patterns, passing R shoulders. Finish facing ptr.
- 5-8 Repeat action of meas 1-4 (Fig IV), returning to own place.
- 9-16 Repeat action of meas 1-8 (Fig IV), except that on meas 15-16 ptrs dance Stamp Ending, RLR.  
(Skirt: Out to sides on fwd waltz; both hands in to chest on Hook Turn.)

V. RIDING STEP WITH TWIST AND TURN

- 1-6 Both beginning L, dance 3 Riding Step With Twist patterns to exchange places with ptr, passing R shoulders.
- 7-8 Turn in place to own R (CW) with 4 stamps, LRLR (cts 1, 2, 3, 1) hold, no wt on last stamp (cts 2, 3).
- 9-16 Repeat action of meas 1-8 (Fig V) again passing R shoulders and turning R to face ptr.
- 17-24 Repeat action of meas 1-8 (Fig V), turning once to own R (CW).
- 25-32 Repeat action of meas 17-24 (Fig V), beginning R behind L and turning to own L (CCW). Both finish with back twd music.  
(Skirt: Keep skirt quiet.)

VI. BALANCE, LEAP, TURN AND STAMP

- 1-2 Beginning ML-WR, balance swd twd ptr and away from ptr.
- 3-4 With Leap and Turn pattern, ptrs exchange places, W crossing in front.
- 5-8 Beginning MR-WL, repeat action of meas 1-4 (Fig VI), returning to place. M cross in front.
- 9-16 Repeat action of meas 1-8 (Fig VI).  
(Skirt: Move skirt in direction of balance; quiet on turn.)

VII. STAMP AND SHAKE STEP

- 1-8 Face ptr and exchange places with 2 Stamp and Shake Step patterns, passing R shoulders. Finish turning R to face ptr on last leap.
- 9-16 Repeat action of meas 1-8 (Fig VII), returning to own place. Pass R shoulders. Finish with stamps RL.  
(Skirt: When R ft leads, hold R skirt fwd; L bwd. Change skirt pos on leap.)

VIII. WALTZ, TURN AND POSE

- 1-4 Beginning R, change places with 2 Hook-waltz and Turn patterns, passing R shoulders. Finish facing own place.
- 5-8 Repeat action of meas 1-4 (Fig VIII), returning to own place. Finish facing ptr.
- 9-12 Ptrs exchange places with 4 running waltz steps. Begin R and pass R shoulders. Finish facing ptr on last waltz (turn R).
- 13-14 Return to own side with 2 running waltz steps.
- 15-16 Stamp R (ct 1); hook L over R ft, turning R to finish beside ptr with back to music (M make 3/4 turn, W 1/4 turn), M L arm around W waist (ct 2); stamp L R (cts 3, 1), hold in pose (cts 2, 3).  
(Skirt: In meas 1-8, same as in Fig IV; on running waltz, skirt follows leading ft.)