

1963 SANTA BARBARA FOLK DANCE CONFERENCE

Presented by Dolores Mariano

KURATSA (CURACHA)

(Visayan)

Philippines

SOURCE: This is a very popular dance in the Visayan Islands. It is also found in the Ilocos and Bicol regions.

There are many kinds of Curacha dances, the number of steps and figures of which are unlimited. The dancers make and select their own dance steps so that everything depends on the ability, inclination, and mood of the dancers at the time of the performance. Expert dancers perform steps which are complicated and which call for great dexterity and agility on their part. Usually the boy's steps are harder than the girl's.

The dance described below was found in Leyte and the steps have been selected from a large number found in this province. It is a very lively dance.

COSTUME: The girl wears a "patadyong" and the boy, "barong tagalog" and white or colored pants.

MUSIC: The music is divided into three parts: A, B, and C. Count one, two, three to a measure.

Music: Record: Mico MX 474-B

FORMATION: Partners stand opposite each other about six or eight feet apart. When facing the audience, the girl stands at partner's right side. Ordinarily, only one pair dances this, but any number of pairs may take part.

INTRODUCTION

MUSIC INTRODUCTION

Partners join inside hands, free hands hanging loosely at the sides. Starting with the R foot, take three steps forward (cts 1,2,3). Put the feet together and bow to partner or audience (ct 1).....4 cts

Dancers separate about six feet apart. The last two counts of the music are not played until the partners are in their proper places (cts 2,3).... 2 cts

I

MUSIC A

(a) Starting with the R foot, take four steps forward to be side by side (L to L shoulder) at center (cts 1,2,3,1), transfer weight to R foot in rear (ct 2), transfer weight to L foot in front (ct 3). Hands hang at the sides and swing naturally in time with the music or girl holds skirt, boy's hands on waist while doing the four steps forward on cts 1,2,3,1. R arm in fifth position and L hand on waist when transferring weight on cts 2,3..... 2 M.

(b) Starting with the R foot, four steps backward to proper places. Hands as in (a) (4 cts), two-step turn right in place, girl holding skirt, boy's hands on waist (2 cts)..... 2 M.

Continued...

- (c) Repeat (a), this time partners stand by each other's R shoulder at the center..... 2 M.
 (d) Starting with the R foot, four steps forward to partner's place (4 cts), two-step turn right about to face partner (2 cts)..... 2 M.
 (e) Repeat all (a-d), finishing in proper places, facing each other.. 8 M.

II

MUSIC B

- (a) Sway balance with a raise, R and L. Arms in fourth position, R and L arm high or arms bent forward at shoulder level, opening and closing with a forearm turn..... 4 M.
 (b) Three fast waltz turns right to partner's place (one waltz step for every turn). Arms in lateral position with forearm turns. Finish facing partner. Pass each other by L shoulders..... 3 M.
 (c) Repeat (a) and (b), finishing in proper places..... 7 M.
 (d) Repeat all (a-c)..... 14 M.

III

MUSIC C

Face left--boy faces audience, girl, away from the audience. Starting position--R foot in fifth position in front.

- (a) With the R foot leading, take seven mincing steps moving sideward right toward partner's place (take six mincing steps for the first three counts and one only on the fourth count). R arm in fifth position, L hand on waist (4 cts). Turn right about on the ball of the R foot (2 cts)..... 2 M.
 (b) With the L foot leading, repeat (a) going to partner's place. Reverse arm positions (4 cts), turn left about on the ball of the L foot (2 cts)..... 2 M.
 (c) Repeat (a)..... 2 M.
 (d) Cross-turn right. Bend the trunk and knees slightly while turning and straighten them at the close of the turn. "Salok" the L hand across the body while turning, R hand on waist or in fifth position. Finish facing each other..... 2 M.
 (e) Repeat all (a-d), finishing in proper places facing partner..... 8 M.

IV

MUSIC B

- (a) Repeat figure II (a)..... 4 M.
 (b) Starting with the R foot, two waltz steps forward to form one line at the center facing the audience, the girl standing in front of the partner (2 M). Pause (1 M)..... 3 M.
 (c) Four waltz steps sideward R and L alternately, arms in lateral position moving sideward right and left alternately..... 4 M.
 (d) Three fast waltz turns right to partner's place. Arms as in figure II (b)..... 3 M.
 (e) Repeat all (a-d), finishing in proper places..... 14 M.

Continued...

V

MUSIC C

Face left as in figure III.

(a) Mincing steps moving to sideward right. The R foot steps forward and backward alternately, while the L foot moves little by little to sideward right. Partners meet at the center in a back-to-back position at the end of the fourth measure. R arm in fifth and L bent forward at shoulder level 4 M

(b) With partners in back-to-back position close to each other, continue doing the same step, turning clockwise in place. Arms as in (a) 4 M
Partners face each other.

(c) Continue the mincing steps moving clockwise. Reverse the position of the arms every two measures or every measure 6 M

(d) Waltz turn right to proper places. Arms as in figure II (b) 2 M

VI

MUSIC B.

(a) Sway balance with a hop R and L. Arms in fourth position, R and L arm high alternately 4 M

(b) Two waltz steps forward to meet partner at center. Arms in lateral position moving sideward right and left (2 M). Pause (1 M) 3 M

(c) R arm bent forward at shoulder level, L arm in fifth position. Point R foot sideward (cts. 1,2), point R in front (ct. 3). Point R sideward (cts. 1, 2), point R close to L in first and bend body jerkily toward the pointing foot and at the same time lowering the R elbow close to the waist (ct. 3) 2 M

(d) Repeat (c) 2 M

(e) Starting with the R foot, two waltz steps forward to partner's place. Arms as in (b) 2 M

(f) Waltz turn right about. Finish facing partner. Arms as in figure II (b) 1 M

(g) Repeat all (a-f), finishing in proper places 14 M

VII

MUSIC B. Play faster and once only.

(a) Starting with the R foot, two waltz steps forward to meet at center. Arms in lateral position, moving sideward right and left 2 M

(b) With the girl leading, partners waltz to any direction as if the boy is chasing the girl. The girl turns around to face partner once in a while, then continues to move in any desired direction. Arms as in (a) 10 M

(c) Partners join inside hands, girl standing at the right (1 M) bow to each other or to audience (1 M) 2 M

RECORD: Mico, TMOCL (Philippine Folk Dances, Vol. 1) Side 2, band 4.