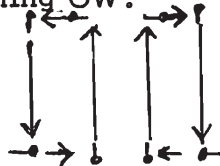


DANZA DE LOS SONAJEROS
(Mexico)

The Sonajeros are a remnant of the indigenous planter cultures of northern Jalisco, Mexico. They attach metal discs to their planting sticks and carry them while dancing, using them as accompaniment and props for certain patterns. There are endless variations and figures. The following are some of the simplest which could be used in the elementary school. It is traditionally danced only by men. The revolving formations symbolize the revolving planets and stars, which are carefully watched by planters to guide them in harvesting, planting, etc.

Music: RCA Victor MKLA/s - 30. Record 2, Side 3, Band 4.

Formation: Two lines. Each M shoulder to shoulder with his ptr, all facing the head of the line. For each step pattern, each line of dancers make one revolution: the line on the R making a CW revolution, but at the ends of the lines turning CCW as individual dancers. The line on the L revolves CCW, the individuals turning CW.



Style: Stoic precision. Absolute uniformity of step and line. Eye contact with any of the other dancers is rare. Faces set, never smiling. The outcome of their crops depended on the precision of the dances (to please the gods of rain, fertility, etc.), so it is highly serious.

Meas

Pattern

Introduction: With cues from the flute, turn CW, then CCW, shake the rattle-stick, yell.

PART I. 2/4. (Stick held down and taps ground on every ft stamp)

1 Stamp L fwd (ct 1), close R (ct &), stamp L fwd (ct 2), close R (ct &).

2-16 Repeat action of meas 1, Part I, 15 times.

Transition with cue from flute: Turn CCW, shake rattle, yell.

DANZA DE LOS SONAJEROS (continued)

PART II. 2/8

- & 1/4 turn to face ptr. Stick grasped with both hds and contacts ground on ct 1. (Description is for dancer in R line; dancer in L line uses reverse ftwork.)
- 1 Keeping wt on L, stamp R to R side (ct 1). Stamp R in place (ct 2).
- 2 Stamp R to R (ct 1). 1/2 pivot turn CW on R (ct 2).
- 3-4 Repeat action of meas 1-2, Part II, reversing ftwork.
- 5-6 Repeat action of meas 1-2, Part II.
- 7 Repeat action of meas 1, Part II, reversing ftwork.
- 8 Stamp L to L (ct 1). Stamp L in place (ct 2).
- 9 Stamp L to L (ct 1). 1/2 pivot turn CCW on L (ct 2).
- 10-18 Repeat action of meas 1-9, Part II, reversing ftwork.
- 19-36 Repeat action of meas 1-18, Part II.

Transition: With cue from flute, turn CCW, shake rattle, yell.

PART III. Las Olas (The waves) 2/4

Formation: Face ptr and take end of his stick in your L hd as you hand him the end of your stick with R.hd.

Description for head cpl; other cpls follow.

- 1 Stamp R (ct 1). Stamp L (ct &). Stamp R (ct 2). Stamp L (ct &), lifting sticks and moving twd the end of the line while cpl 2 moves twd head of line and passes under raised sticks of cpl 1.
- 2 Repeat action of meas 1, Part III, lowering bodies and passing under sticks of cpl 3.
- 3 Repeat action of meas 1, Part III, raising sticks so cpl 4 passes under them.
- 4 Repeat action of meas 1, Part III, changing direction and now traveling twd head of line, lowering body and sticks and passing under sticks of cpl 2.
- 5 Repeat action of meas 1, Part III, raising sticks with cpl 3 going under.
- 6 Repeat action of meas 1, Part III, lowering sticks and going under raised sticks of cpl 4.
- 7-8 Repeat action of meas 1, Part III twice. In place. Let go of ptr's stick and raise own so end rests on R shoulder. Face front of line.

PART IV. 6/8

Advanced dancers could make revolution on pattern: beginners or children should stay in place.

- 1 Hop to R (ct 1). Hop L in place (ct 2). Hop R in place (ct 3). Hop to L (ct 4). Hop R in place (ct 5). Hop L in place (ct 6).
- 2-6 Repeat action of meas 1, Part IV, five times.

DANZA DE LOS SONAJEROS (continued)

End: Turn CCW, shake rattle, yell.

VARIATIONS: (Or set record band to beginning and repeat dance with following variations.)

PART I. 2/4

Stick in R hd, end pointed back diag high. Wrist rotates and releases on each stamp to make sound. Make revolution or use as entrance.

- 1 Stamp L in place and pick it up (ct 1). Step fwd on L (ct &). Stamp R in place and pick it up (ct 2). Step fwd on R (ct &).
- 2-16 Repeat action of meas 1, Part I of variations, 15 times.

PART II 2/8

Same as Part II, in first version.

PART III. 2/4 La Morisma (Moorish). Making revolution.

- 1 Step L taking stick in R hd and pointing it fwd (ct 1). Hop L and pass stick under R leg which is in the air, transferring stick to L hd (ct &). Step R (ct 2). Hop on R and pass stick under L leg, transferring stick to R hd (ct &).
- 2-8 Repeat action of meas 1, Part III of variation, 7 times.

PART IV. 6/8

- 1-6 Repeat action of meas 1, Part III of variation, only picking up tempo and staying in place.

End: Turn CCW, shake stick, yell.

Presented by Susan Cashion