

CAMINO AL BAÑO  
(Argentina)

43

Argentina is a country of wide pampas, huge ranchos, daring gauchos, and spirited horses. This dance depicts the actions of horses and their drivers. Literally translated, the title means "road to the bathing place or water", which may indicate taking horses to the river to cool off after a hard day on the plain. Arranged by Ruth White.

Music: Record: Rhythms Productions CC 619-2 Side B.

Formation: Single circle of about 8 cpls all facing CCW, horse in front of driver. Each cpl has 2 reins about 4 ft long, the back ends held by driver, the front ends by horse. The driver also holds a small paper whip in his R hand.

Steps and Styling: Two Step: Step fwd L (ct 1), close R to L (ct &), step L (ct 2), hold (ct &). Repeat, starting R. (1 two-step per meas). Arms and body sway from side to side and the knee action is exaggerated to suggest galloping.

Prance and turn in place: In even rhythm, lift knees high and point toes down while doing a sort of light marching step in place and turning around. Chest held high and head thrown back to suggest high-strung or showy horse.

Dishrag Turn: Two dancers facing with both hands joined straight across shoulder high. Raise one pair of joined hands. Turn away from each other under raised arms and continue turning to be back-to-back momentarily. Complete the turn under other arms, ending facing each other. Complete turn is one smooth, continuous movement in 4 cts, with small prancing steps in place and moving only enough to facilitate arms and body action. Teaching cue: "Under, back-to-back, under, face-to-face."

Improvised "horse play": Bucking, kicking, jumping, frisking, pawing the air, and any other kind of horse-like cavorting. Performed by "horses" while "drivers" form corral around them.

Measures      Pattern

1-8      FIG I (BIG CIRCLE)  
Beginning L, all dance 8 two-steps CCW around big circle, holding reins high upward and outward. Simulate galloping effect.

9-16      FIG II (SMALL CIRCLES TO R AND L)  
With 8 two-steps each driver turns his horse to R, completing 2 small circles CW.

17-24      With 8 two-steps each driver turns his horse to L, completing 2 small circles CCW.

25-32      FIG III (WHIRLING WHIP IN BIG CIRCLE)  
Driver holds both reins in L hand, twirls whip overhead with R hand in time to music as all gallop in big circle CCW with 8 two-steps.

## CAMINO AL BAÑO (cont)

FIG IV (WHIPPING HORSE AROUND BIG CIRCLE)

- 33-40 Continue traveling CCW around big circle with 8 two-steps. On ct 1 of meas 36 and ct 1 of meas 38, driver whips horse by leaning fwd and swishing whip near horse's ft. (whips are clearly indicated by music).
- 41-48 Repeat action of meas 33-40.

FIG V (PRANCE AND TURN IN PLACE)

- 49-56 Horse turns to face driver, keeping reins wide and straight between them. Both prance in place 16 steps without stopping. During meas 52 both make dishrag turn in one smooth movement, starting under OUTSIDE rein, and face each other again without tangling reins or interrupting prancing rhythm. During meas 54 repeat dishrag turn starting under INSIDE rein. (The music indicates the time for the turns).
- 57-64 Repeat action of meas 49-56.

FIG VI (HORSE TURNED LOOSE IN CORRAL)

- 65 Horses move to inside of circle and face drivers.
- 66 Horse releases rein in R hand.
- 67 Horse places other rein in L hand of driver who was directly ahead in big circle (driver now to L of horse).
- 68 Horse turns around and starts cavorting. Reins released by horses hang from drivers' outstretched hands and drivers' bodies form upright posts of corral; reins stretched between drivers' hands and drivers' arms form top rail of corral.
- 69-76 While drivers stand motionless forming corral, horses become wild and uncontrolled and cavort about in corral: whinny, paw, frisk, etc.
- 77-80 Each driver releases rein of driver on L, holds on to own reins, whistles and beckons to horse. Driver turns to face CCW extending reins, one in each hand, for horse to pick up; horses walk to own drivers, get into place facing driver and pick up ends of reins.

FIG VII (PRANCE AND TURN IN PLACE)

- 81-96 Repeat action of Fig V, end with horses turning to face CCW.

FIG VIII (BIG CIRCLE)

- 97-104 Repeat action of Fig I.

FIG IX (SMALL CIRCLES TO R AND L)

- 105-120 Repeat action of Fig II.

FIG X (WHIRLING WHIP IN BIG CIRCLE)

- 121-128 Repeat action of Fig III, exiting from dance area by following an appointed leading horse and driver in a long curve Drivers whirl whips and whoop, horses toss heads and neigh.

Presented by Vyts Beliajus