

## El Cuando

(Argentina)

This beautiful courtly dance was danced in the first half of the 1800s throughout Argentina with the exception of Buenos Aires and el Litoral region. It is a derivation of the Gavotas that the Spanish brought to Argentina in the 18th century. These were French dances composed of two melodies – the Minuet and the other is what became El Gato. The Argentine military hero San Martin possibly first saw it in Mendoza and then took it to Chile on a military campaign along with other dances in 1817. It is a historical dance that is typically only performed in programs celebrating national days. The women wear long ball gowns with mantillas and combs and the men are dressed in tails.

Pronunciation: ehl KWAHN-doh

Translation: The When

Music: mixed meter (3/4 and 6/8)

*Música de Mi Pueblo*, Track 6

Formation: As this is a performance piece, ptrs face each other with M L shldr to the audience. Given that El Cuando has only three cts of introduction, the dancers should already be in position when the music starts, about two yards apart. Wt on R with L stretched in front, toe pointed, and lightly resting on the floor. M has back of L hand on his back a little below waist level, palm out; R hand is held out and ready to take the W's L hand on ct 3. W has L hand on her waist and her R hand slightly lifting the skirt.

Steps & Styling: The Minuet steps are danced with a special step, referred to as a Cuando.

Quando Step. With an almost straight leg, touch L toe across R ft (ct 1); touch L toe straight in front of L (ct 2); touch L toe across R ft (ct 3); slide L fwd and take wt (ct &). Repeat with opp ftwk.

The Alegria portion uses the Triplet Waltz Step.

Triplet Waltz Step: Each step in this dance is actually three steps, a triplet waltz step that is one long step (ct 1) and two shorter steps done almost in place (cts 2-3), beg with either ft.

Zarandeo. W does Triplet Waltz Steps tracing a pattern on the floor while swishing her skirt. W chooses which Zarandeo she wants to do.

Zarandeo de Cuatro. W does Waltzing Steps tracing a diamond or rhombus while moving her skirt counter-body. Each Cuatro takes four Waltzing Steps, so the tracing of the diamond is done twice.

Zapateo. This is a stamping pattern. M chooses which Zapateo to perform. There is no set choreographic choice dictated. See separate instructions at the end of this section for Zapateos.

Meas      mixed meter

Pattern

3 cts

INTRODUCTION.

Step fwd twd ptr with L, pivoting ¼ turn to face the audience (ct 1); step R next to L as M offers W his R hand, palm up at shldr level, and W lightly places R hand in on M's L (ct 2); point L toe fwd and bow to the audience (ct 3).

$\frac{3}{4}$  MINUET.I. AVANCE Y SALUDO (ADVANCE AND SALUTE).

1-3 Beg pointing L across and advancing twd audience, three Cuando Steps.

4-6 Step onto L and pivot  $\frac{1}{4}$  CCW to face ptr (ct 1); step R bkwd, leaving L pointed in front (ct 2); W curtsy and M bow (ct 3).

II. REGRESO Y SALUDO (RETURN AND SALUTE).

1-6 Repeat Fig I. This requires dancers to turn their back to the audience, walk fwd (away from audience) and return to beg pos.

III. CRUCE Y SALUDO (CROSS & SALUTE).

1-3 Beg orig pos face-to-face, and using the same ftwk as Fig I, meas 1-3, dance in a slight arc so that ptrs pass L shldr.

4-6 Using the same ftwk as Fig I, meas 4-6, turn to face ptr. M and W have exchanged places.

7-12 Repeat 1-6. M and W are back in orig pos.

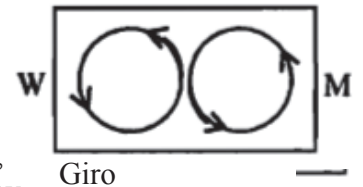
 $\frac{6}{8}$  ALEGRIA.I. VUELTA ENTERA (BIG CIRCLE). Arms curved up at head level, slightly fwd, snapping fingers.

1-2 Using four Triplet Waltz Steps, M and W exchange places by moving along half of a large CCW circle.

3-4 Using four Triplet Waltz Steps, M and W return to orig pos by moving along half of a large CCW circle.

II. GIRO (TURN).

1-2 Using four Triplet Waltz Steps, each dances out to the R, to dance in a small individual CCW circle and back to orig pos. At the end of the second Triplet Steps, when R shldr are adjacent, each looks over R shldr to smile at the other, before turning away and finishing the circle. Arms are raised while snapping fingers.

III. CONTRAGIRO (REVERSE TURN).

1-2 Repeat Fig II, but dance in a CW circle and turn L shldr twd ptr on the second Triplet Waltz Steps.

IV. ZAPATEO Y ZARANDEO DE CORAZÓN.

1-4 M performs a Zapateo while W performs a Zarandeo de Cuatro twice. See the end of this section for instructions on Zapateos.

Sequence: Minuet, Alegria Fig I, Fig II, Fig III, Fig IV, Fig II, Fig III, Minuet Fig I, Fig II. End remaining in ctr ready for repeat. Repeat from beginning, after final Fig II return to ctr and bow.

Presented by Pampa Cortés