

La Firmeza

(Argentina)

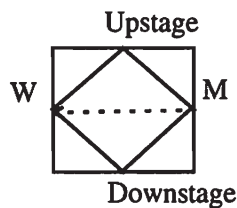
La Firmeza is an old dance from Las Pampas. It has been danced since the last century and belongs to the class of dance called "picarescas" (flirtatious) and the dancers pantomime to the lyrics of the song. It can be danced in a single couple formation.

Pronunciation: lah fihr-MEHZ-ah

Cassette: Danzas Argentinas #1

6/8 meter

Formation: Ptrs face each other in a line going across an imaginary square and the floor pattern describes a diamond shape.



Steps and Styling: See glossary for description.

Meas

Pattern

8 meas

INTRODUCTION Stand in place clapping hands ("palmas") to the beat of the music.

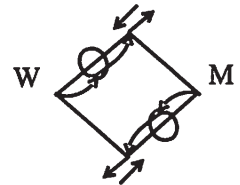
I. FIRST ESQUINA DE BALNCEO

1-2 Beg on L, dance 1 Basic step (2 meas) with arms rounded and held diag fwd high, hands at approx eye level (Basic arm pos). M and W travel CW to next corner of the imaginary diamond, turning 360° CCW along the way. Fingers snap to the rhythm of the music.

3 In new corner, starting L, 1 pas de bas.

4 Repeat meas 3 with opp ftwk and direction.

"Anteapoche me confese
con el cura de Santa Clara"



II. 2ND ESQUINO DE BALANCEO

1-4 Repeat Fig I from the new pos.
"Anteapoche me confese
con el cura de Santa Clara"

III. 3RD ESQUINO DE BALANCEO

1-4 Repeat Fig I from the new pos.
"Y me dio por penitencia
que La Firmeza bailara"

La Firmeza—continued

IV. 4TH ESQUINO DE BALANCEO

- 1-4 Repeat Fig I from the new pos, ending in starting pos.
 “Y me dio por penitencia
 que La Firmeza bailara”

V. GIRO—SMALL CCW CIRCLE

- 1-4 2 Basic steps, beg with L, arms in Basic arm pos. M and W describe a small CCW circle, meeting midway (back to back) in imaginary diamond and ending in starting pos. Directions and ftwk same for M and W.
 “Daras una vuelta
 con tu companera:

VI. GIRO CON DETENCION—SMALL CCW CIRCLE WITH STOP

- 1-4 Repeat Fig V, but when meeting midway (2nd meas), dancers stop momentarily, looking at each other over their R shldr, then immediately complete the figure, ending back in orig pos.

VII. PASEOS—WALK

- 1-2 Beg with L, dance 1 Basic step to upstage point of diamond. “Por ese constado”
 3-4 Turning twd each other, dance 1 Basic step twd downstage point of diamond.
 “por el otro lado”
 5-6 Turning twd each other, dance 1 Basic step to upstage point of diamond. “con ese mdito”
 7 Turning twd each other, dance 1/2 Basic step with L to ctr of diamond.
 “ponele el”
 8 Cross inside leg over the other and touch inside elbows (codito) at the same time. “codito”

VII. IST ZAPATEO Y ZARANDEO

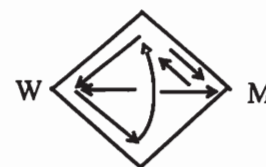
- 1-6 M: Walk with R back to starting pos; start Basico Cruzado with L. On meas 1-2, put L hand at ear (“ponele el oido”); on meas 3-4, put R hand on heart (“tambien los sentidos”); on meas 5-6, put L hand in belt buckle and R arm down at side (“como corresponde”).
 7 Step on L twd ptr (cts 1-2); step on R twd ptr (ct 3). (“Una mana al”)
 8 Point L ft fwd (ct 1) and at the same time place R hand over W’s L shldr. (“hombro”)
 (1-2) W: Uncross L ft and starting with L, dance Basic step diag bkwd L, beginning to describe a diamond shape, and making 1 side of diamond with each meas. Put R hand at ear (“ponele el oido”).
 (3-4) Put L hand on side of head (“tambien los sentidos”).
 (5-6) Put both hands on skirt (“como corresponde”).
 (7) Step on L twd ptr (cts 1-2); step on R twd ptr (ct 3). (“Una mana al”)
 (8) Point L ft fwd (ct 1) and at the same time place R hand over M’s shldr. (“hombro”)



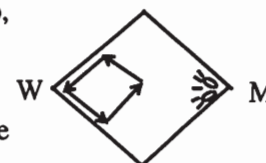
La Firmeza—continued

IX. 2ND ZAPATEO Y ZARANDEO

- 1-2 W: Push M back with R hand and walk bkwd starting with L, 1 step to each meas.
M: Also take 2 steps bkwd. W acts very proud and he is surprised (“retirate un paso”)
- 3-4 M: Perform Zapateo Basico, walking to the W pretending he’ll embrace her (“damele un abrazo”). W: Beg L, dance Basic step, both hands on skirt, moving diag fwd R trying to avoid M’s embrace.
- 5-6 M: Continue Zapateo, moving behind W (“otro poquitito”).
W: continues Basic step twd downstage flirting with M.
- 7-8 M: Continues Zapateo back to starting pos, pretending to send W a kiss with R hand (“damele un besito”). W: Continue Basic step, going back to starting pos, bending head down shyly.

X. 3RD ZAPATEO Y ZARANDEO

- 1-8 M: With L hand in belt buckle and R arm down at side, perform Zapateo salto con taco. In meas 5-6, he covers his face with R hand (“tapata la cara”).
- (1-4) W: Beg L, dance 2 Basic steps, L hand on waist and R hand says “no, no, no” to M. Describe a diamond shape, beg R diag fwd, making 1 side of diamond with each meas (“Ay, no, no.no.no”).
- (5-8) Repeat diamond shape, covering face with L hand (“tapate lacara, que te doy licencia”).

XI. MEDIA VUELTA—HALF CCW CIRCLE

- 1-4 Beg L, dancing Basic step with Basic arm pos, M and W describe a 1/2 CCW circle ending in opp pos.

XII. GIRO FINAL—FINAL SMALL CIRCLE

- 1-2 Beg L, M and W dance 1 Basic step, describing a small 1/2 circle, meeting in the center of diamond and passing back to back. Arms are in Basic pos.
- 3 M and W step away from ptr on L (ct 1-2); pivot CCW on L 180° to face ptr (ct 3); step on R twd ptr (ct 4-6).
- 4 M and W point L ft fwd and put R hand on ptr’s L shldr (cts 1-2); hold (cts 3-6).



Repeat all 12 figures of the dance once from the opp pos. During the repeat of the 6-meas intro, M walks W back to her new place, then returns to his.

Presented by Nora Dinzelbacher