

## LA RASPA

"La Raspa" is a colorful folk dance from our American neighbors south of the border. It is similar to "La Virgincita" (the little maiden), another very popular social dance of Mexico. "La Raspa" gets its name from the music to which it is danced. The steps in the chorus are identical with many old European folk dances. It is unusual in that the chorus comes first in the music and the figures second. The figures change, but the chorus remains the same. On the record there is music for four figures and choruses. The figures, says Michael Herman, may be used in any combination or they may be constantly repeated. "La Raspa" may be done in couples in free formation around the room, or it may be done in a circle. Sometimes in closing a jarabe step is used (heel, toe, toe, heel), but it is very difficult and is not included here. After the last figure, there is music for 3 claps.

### **Formation:**

Either free formation with couples around the room, or couples in a circle, the men with their backs to the center.

### **Action:**

#### Chorus:

Partners face each other and join both hands. Both hop on left foot, extend right foot forward and touch heel to the floor. Both hop on right foot, extend left foot forward and touch heel to the floor, both hop on left foot, extend right foot forward and touch heel to the floor, hold. Continuing, hop on right, extend left, hop on left, extend right, hop on right, extend left, and hold. Repeat this entire action three times. This is sometimes referred to as a shuffle step (See Fig. 127.)

#### Figure 1

If in a circle, partners join inside hands and two-step counterclockwise around the circle (16 counts). If partners are dancing as couples, take a closed dance position to do a two-step turn.

### **Chorus**

#### Figure 2:

Partners stand right side to right side, join hands with arms outstretched. They skip around in place clockwise for 8 counts. Reverse directions, left side to left side, and skip 8 steps in counterclockwise direction.

### **Chorus**

#### Figure 3:

Dancers clap own hands once, link right elbows, and turn partners clockwise 8 counts. Clap own hands again, hook left elbows, and turn 8 counts counterclockwise. Repeat.

### **Chorus**

#### Summary:

#### **Chorus**

Right-left-right-hold,  
Left-right-left-hold,  
Right-left-right-hold,  
Left-right-left-hold,  
Right-left-right-hold,  
Left-right-left-hold,  
Right-left-right-hold,  
Left-right-left-hold.

#### Figure 1:

Two-step, turn.

### **Chorus**

#### Figure 2:

Right-shoulder turn; left-shoulder turn.

### **Chorus**

#### Figure 3:

Clap, right elbows, swing; clap, left elbows, swing.

### **Chorus**

