

# Historical Background



## Lesson 3

### The Historical Influences...

**How They Arrived in Argentina and Where the Dances' Popularity is Concentrated Today**

# The Chacarera



## **History:**

### **WHAT INFLUENCES MADE THE CHACARERA WHAT IT IS TODAY? HOW DID THESE INFLUENCES MAKE THEIR WAY INTO ARGENTINA?**

The Chacarera was influenced by the pantomime dances (the Gallarda, the Canario, and the Zarabanda) that were performed in the theaters of Europe (Spain and France) in the 1500s and 1600s.

Later, through the Spanish colonization of the Americas, the Chacarera spread from Peru into Argentina during the 1800s (19<sup>th</sup> century).

As a result, the Chacarera was also influenced by the local Indian culture (indigenous people) of the area.

Today, it is enjoyed by all social classes, in both rural and urban areas. It has spread throughout the entire country except in the region of Patagonia.

## **Popularity is concentrated in which provinces?**

It is especially popular in Santiago del Estero, Tucuman, Salta, Jujuy, Catamarca, La Rioja and Cordoba. These provinces are located in the Northwest, Cuyo, and Pampas regions of Argentina.

There are many variations of the dance that are influenced by each of the provinces (examples: The Santiaguena, The Tucumana, The Cordobesa)

\*variations do not change the essence of the dance

# The Gato



## **History:**

# **WHAT INFLUENCES MADE THE GATO WHAT IT IS TODAY? HOW DID THESE INFLUENCES MAKE THEIR WAY INTO ARGENTINA?**

The Gato was danced in many Central and South American countries including Mexico, Peru, Chile, Uruguay, and Paraguay, however, it gained tremendous popularity in Argentina.

The Gato has a very similar historical background as the other playfully mischievous dances (very similar to the Chacarera).

As a result of the Spanish colonization of the Americas, it spread from Peru into Argentina by way of Bolivia in the north and by way of Chile in the west at the start of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Danced by all social classes

Spread throughout the entire country (urban and rural areas) during the 1800s (19<sup>th</sup> century)

Very popular historically in the central and coastal provinces

Very popular currently in the northwestern and Pampas provinces

## **Popularity is concentrated in which provinces?**

It is especially popular in Santiago del Estero, Tucuman, Salta, Jujuy, Catamarca, La Rioja, and Cordoba. These provinces are located in the Northwest and Pampas regions of Argentina.

There are many variations of the dance that are influenced by each of the provinces (examples: Gato cordobes, Gato cuyano, Gato porteno).

\*Variations do not affect the essence of the dance

\*In some central provinces the dance is called Bailecito, which is not to be confused with a different Argentine folk dance that shares the same name.

# The Zamba





# **History: WHAT INFLUENCES MADE THE ZAMBA WHAT IT IS TODAY?**

## **HOW DID THESE INFLUENCES MAKE THEIR WAY INTO ARGENTINA?**

The Zamba is a love dance and it came from a Peruvian dance called “La Zamacueca” and a Chilean dance called “La Cueca”.

La Zamacueca comes from a Spanish dance called the Fandango which, through the Spanish colonization, arrived in the Americas and spread quickly throughout Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, and Bolivia.

La Zamacueca arrived in Argentina by way of Chile (1825) through the province of Mendoza and later spread throughout the northern provinces by way of Bolivia. It became extremely popular in all of the Argentine provinces, except Buenos Aires.

La Zamacueca influenced many Argentine folk dances: la Zamba, la Cueca, la Cuequita, and la Chilena.

Throughout much of Argentina, la Zamacueca is known by this name and others, including Cueca, Cueca Chilena, and Chilena.

In the northwestern provinces, such as Tucuman, Salta, and Jujuy, it is known as Cuequita and Zamba.

La Zamba, direct descendent of la Zamacueca, was danced throughout the entire country by the 19<sup>th</sup> century and currently remains extremely popular.

## **Popularity is concentrated in which provinces?**

It is especially popular in the provinces of Tucuman, Santiago del Estero, Salta, and Jujuy.

These provinces are located in the Northwest region of Argentina.