DANCE OF CHIAPAS

9. Las Chiapaneca
One of the most popular Mexican dances is presented here.

FIESTA IN JALISCO
Jalisco is perhaps the best known area of Mexico because of the mariachi music, the tequila and the famous Jarabe Tapatio (Hat Dance). In the mariachi orchestra guitars of varying sizes are used, the largest being the guitarrón. This group of dances typifies the joy so characteristic of the State of Jalisco.

10. Las Alazanas
The group of dancers with the Mariachi ensemble.

11. The popular La Cucaracha and La Madrugada (Danza de los Machetes) in which men fight for the woman using big knives.

12. Palabra de Hombre
Vocal solo: Raul Hernandez.

13. Grand Finale
The entire Company dances El Jarabe de Jalisco. The national costumes of Mexico are used here: the China Poblana and the Charro.

Recorded in the CBS Studios, Mexico City, under the personal supervision of Rose N. Rubin
MEXICAN history may be roughly divided into two periods, before and after the arrival of the Spaniards. Pre-Hispanic Mexico was characterized by highly developed civilizations among which the Aztec and Mayan are the best known. With advanced social and political systems, these ancient civilizations reached a high degree of sophistication. The MEXICANA recreates some of the authentic music (using original instruments) and dance of the pre-Columbian period. Unusual flutes, wooden drums and shell horns are heard in the music of this period.

The widespread influence of Spain, and later France, on Mexican culture, resulted in new forms and styles of music and dance. But, while the new influences were European, they were locally blended and adapted until recognizable hybrid Mexican forms emerged. In the State of Jalisco, for example, the Mariachi ensemble came into being. This musical formation, consisting of violins, guitars and trumpets, received its name from the French word ‘mariage’ meaning wedding because of the custom of the state of having the local bands play at weddings. The Mariachi sound, very well represented by the MEXICANA group, has recently become the prototype for the currently popular forms of music and dance.

Perhaps the most beautiful and evocative Mexican musical sound is that of the marimba of the Tehuantepec Isthmus of Oaxaca State. This instrument is made of hard wood and has a sound similar to a xylophone. The marimba players of MEXICANA are fine exponents of this lovely instrument which is used in the Oaxaca Wedding Ceremony.

Here is a chance to take a trip to Mexico without leaving your living room. It will be a trip into the Aztec and Mayan past and into the country of the present day. As you listen to the sounds of our neighbors to the south, let your mind transport you to the colorful locales and let your mind’s eye see the swirling skirts and stamping feet of a nation rich in tradition, proud of its achievements and confident of bright tomorrows.

Notes by John M. Reed

SONGS & DANCES OF VERACRUZ

1. Song of the Politos
   The Rio Blanco Singers play the original instruments of Veracruz: the harp, the jarana (a small guitar), the requinto (a four-string guitar) and a regular Spanish guitar.

2. La Cumbamba
   Throughout this recording the listener may hear the actual sounds of the dancers, particularly the heel work, and in this selection the Company performs one of the most popular Veracruz dances.

3. Song of “El Pajarito Carpentero”
   The solo heel work in this selection is by Encarnacion Martinez.

DANCES FROM THE OAXACA & TEHUANTEPEC REGIONS

4. The Wedding Ceremony
   The bride and groom are accompanied with Mixtec songs and Jarabes from Oaxaca. During the ceremony it is the custom to throw flowers and to count them, indicating a long and happy life for the couple. We hear the authentic Oaxaca music played by the marimbas of Mario Salguero and Carlos Vazquez.

5. The Feather Dance
   The dancers come to the Fiesta to offer the famous Oaxaca dance to the newlyweds.

MUSIC FROM PUEBLA

6. Serenata Mexicana
   A scene of old Mexico with the beautiful Talavera costumes of Puebla. A special arrangement of the most popular Mexican songs where the musicians of Fiesta Mexicana join with the dancers and the singer to produce a romantic mood. The medley includes the “Danza de las Espuelas” (Spurs) and the vocal soloist is Raul Hernandez.

DANCES FROM THE MAYANS & THE AZTECS

7. a) Moctezuma, the Aztec King, greets the Mayans in the Teocalli, the great temple. We hear the exotic music of the Aztecs; the musicians play the teponaxtli (instrument made of a carved tree), the huehuetl (the big drum made from a complete tortoise shell which used to give the call to war), the horn shells and the tiaipitzalli (a high-pitched bamboo flute), and the tzitziliztli, a wooden rasp.
   b) Dance of the Xtol: the Mayans entertain their mighty chieftan in their oldest ritual dance. The dancers keep the rhythms of the dance holding tecomates on their hands—a big seed from a tree.

8. a) Dance to the God of Music
   Rite and ceremony were essential parts of the lives of the Mayans. They maintained special schools to train singers and dancers to learn the ceremonies of the Gods.
   b) Finale
   The entertainment for Moctezuma is finished. The King leaves.
Monitor Presents
JAVIER de LEON'S
FIESTA MEXICANA
A PANORAMA OF MEXICO, OLD AND NEW!

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TOTAL PLAYING TIME: 43:38
SONGS & DANCES OF VERACRUZ
1. SONG OF THE POLLITOS
2. LA CUMBAMBA
3. SONG OF "EL PAJARO CARPINTERO"

DANCES FROM OAXACA & TEHUANTEPEC
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DANCES FROM THE MAYANS & THE AZTECS
7. A. MOCTEZUMA  B. DANCE OF THE XTOL
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DANCE OF CHIAPAS
9. LAS CHIAPANECEAS

FIESTA IN JALISCO
10. LAS ALAZANAS
11. LA CUCARACHA & LA MADRUGADA
12. PALABRA DE HOMBRE
13. GRAND FINALE

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