

Mp3 The Alta Calif. Orchestra - Fandango At Sonoma

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We are a group of musicians and dancers of diverse backgrounds brought together to preserve and perform the music dance of Early California. The music is presented in the true spirit of the Fandango, Fiesta or Barn dance, with bright, lively tunes... 17 MP3 Songs in this album (58:19) ! Related styles: FOLK: Traditional Folk, KIDS/FAMILY: Educational Details: The Alta California Orchestra, are a group of musicians and dancers of diverse backgrounds brought together to preserve and perform the music of early California. The music is presented in the true spirit of the Fandango, Fiesta, or barn dance. The tunes are bright and lively, songs of good times and bad. The performers are all well versed in the traditional music of America, Europe and Mexico and have performed worldwide. We are proud to present this vibrant art form, one of the great treasures of the State of California. In the 1960s, a dear friend and master musician, the late Robert D. Thomas, was gifted the book Dances of Early California Days written by Ms. Czarnowski that featured written dances and music of early California. This sparked in him an avid interest in the music of the Californios. With other musical friends he scoured the length of California, researching the old music, by visiting the Archives of the California Missions, the Bancroft Library and the Southwest Museum. The songs and tunes he was able to record along with the collected dances and data, has allowed for The Alta California Orchestra to recreate and teach the music and dances in the traditional style. President Polks vision of manifest destiny in the 1880-1900s, inspired hundreds of thousands of people to migrate by land and sea to seek their fortunes here in this beautiful state. Fandango at Sonoma is a celebration of the ethnic music of early California. The large influx of immigrants from Europe, Mexico, South and Central America, Portugal, Hawaii, Russia and people traveling from the east coast to the west, created a land of diverse ethnicity. These immigrants became known simply as the Californios (the Californians). They played music from their homelands, unwittingly forming the backbone of early dance and musical traditions. Geographically isolated, the Californios started a tradition of holding gatherings at Ranchos, these gatherings were called "Fandangos" which featured large dances, (lead by a dance master), lavish feasts, and horses races with the local vaqueros (cowboys). These gatherings created a plethora of new musical adaptations that developed into the

music, songs and dances then commonly played at the Fandangos. Los Californios, The Alta California Orchestra is proud to share with you the music of our heritage with Fandango at Sonoma. More Information can be found on: Californios.org ABOUT THE TUNES

1. Vals Jota - Lively Californio adaption of a Spanish Jota, from the Los Angeles area.
2. Es el Amor Mariposa - "Butterfly Love" A Californio song from the Los Angeles Basin. Lead Vocals by Melissa Fischbach
3. El Borracho/La Contradanza de Sonoma The Drunk and a Traditional group dance of Sonoma Valley.
4. Alma Angelina-"The Spanish Waltz" A lovely tune, which is still popular in Mexico today.
5. Buffalo Gals/Heel Toe Polka A lively Old West original tune and a European Polka.
6. Contradanza de Los Angeles-Traditional group dance of Los Angeles. Based on "The Green Hills of Tyrol," a beautiful German tune.
7. El Coyote- A popular Early California "game" dance, usually danced by children. The name suggests Native American Indian influence. Native Americans often made up Mission orchestras.
8. Las Blancas Flores- "The White Flowers" this beautiful song, was found in the Charles Lummis Collection of tunes at the Southwest Museum in Pasadena, CA. Lead Vocals by Melissa Fischbach .
9. La Varsouvianna de Watsonville-Traditional group dance of Watsonville. Many renditions of this European dance were played in California. This version is often called "Put Yer Lil' Foot".
10. Contradanza de Monterey-Traditional group dance of Monterey, with Influences from Mexico and Hawaii.
11. Song of the Islands- Hawaii song written by Charles E. King. (little known fact many popular Hawaiian songs were written by Settlers in California, before migrating back to their native Islands.) Lead Vocals by Barbara S. Brown
12. Hawaiian Melody - Hawaii song written by King Benny Newhai. Lead Vocals by Barbara S. Brown
13. La Bruxa - "The Sorceress" This haunting melody was written by folk musician, Anton Seoane from Galicia, (Northern Spain).
14. Samba Choro - This tune was developed in Brazil and migrated to California with Portuguese Settlers.
15. Mi Votu e Mi Revotu/Tarentella - A Sicilian Love Song and a dance tune from Southern Italy. Lead Vocals by Ernest Fischbach.

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