



Saravanda! Dances of New Spain

Tracing the African and Mesoamerican Origins of the Sarabande and the Chaconne

Texts and Translations

Xicochi conetzintle.

Caomiz huihui joco in angelos me,
Aleloya.

Gently sleep, little Child.

Cry no more, for the angels are here.
Alleluia.

A la xacara xacarilla

De buen garbo'y lindo porte,
Traygo por plato de corte
Siendo pasto de la villa.

To the singer, the little singer!

With good grace and cute bearing
I bring [it] as a courtly dish,
The fodder of the town.

A la xacara xacarilla
De novedad de novedades
Aunque'a mas de mil navidades,
Que'alegra la navidad,

To the dance, the little dance
About the news of news!
Although it's been more than a
thousand Christmases,
What a joy [this] Christmas.

Vaya, vaya de xacarilla
Que'el altissimo se'humilla!
Vaya, vaya, de xacara,
Que'el amor pasa de rraya, vaya, vaya!

Go, go for the dance!
That the most high humbles Himself!
Go, go, for the dance!
Love crosses the line, go, go!

1. Agora que con la noche
Se suspenden nuestras penas
Y'a pagar culpas ajenas
Nace'un bello Benjami
Si'el Rey me'escuchara'a mi
O que bien cantara yo
Como ninguno canto
Del niño mas prodigioso.

1. Now that on this night
Our sentences are suspended,
And to pay for someone else's sins,
A beautiful Benjamin is born.
If the King would listen to me,
O, how well I would sing.
I sing like no one else
Of the most prodigious child.

2. Con licençia de lo hermoso,
Rayos desembayma'ardientes.

2. With license from the beautiful One,
Lightning strikes and burns me.

Escuchen me los valientes
Esta verdadera historia
Que al fin se canta la gloria
Y a el la cantan al naçer
General se vio el plaçer
Quel velo a la tierra embia.

The brave listen to me,
This true story,
That at last sings the glory,
And they sing it at [the] birth,
And pleasure was seen by all
That the veil sends to the earth.

3. Que en los ojos de Maria
Madrugaba un claro sol
Con celestial arrebol
Mostro la aurora mas pura
Muchos siglos de hermosura
En pocos años de hedad
Sino sol era deidad
Y el sol es quien la avestido.

What is in Mary's eyes [is]
A bright sun [that] rose early
With a heavenly glow
Showing the purest dawn,
Many centuries of beauty
In a few years of age;
But the sun was the Godhead,
And it was the sun who vested her.

Saravanda española muy facil

Andale, zarabanda,
Que el amor te lo manda.

Come, sarabande,
As love demands.

La zarabanda esta presa
De amores, de un licenciado.

The sarabande is the prize
Of lovers, of a scholar.

Andale zarabanda
Que el amor te lo manda.

Come, sarabande,
As love demands.

Toma el licor, niña,
Toma del quello de mi redoma.

Take the liquor, girl
Take the rest of my vial.

Tomalo, vida mia,
Con prestesa y alegria

Take it, my life,
With eagerness and joy.

Cloris, veux tu savoir
L'effet de ton pouvoir?
Cléante nuit et jour
Brûle d'amour.
C'est luy qui plein de foy
Dedans son âme
Chérit le flame
Qu'il nourrit pour toy.

Cloris, do you want to know
The effect of your power?
Cléante burns with love
Night and Day.
It is he who is full of faith;
Within his soul,
He cherishes the flame
That he nourishes for you.

Prends garde que ses yeux
Plus brillants que les cieux
Vont perdre leur clairté
Pour ta beauté.
Tu lis sa passion
Dans son visage
Vivante image
De l'affection.

Les soupirs et les pleurs,
Témoins de ses douleurs,
Finiront-ils ses jours
Sans ton secours?
Faut-il que les appas
D'une inhumaine,
Outre la peine,
Donnent le trespas?

Beware, lest his eyes,
More brilliant than the skies,
Could lose their clarity
Because of your beauty.
You read his passion
On his face,
The living image
Of affection.

Will the sighs and the tears,
Proof of his pains,
End his days
Without your help?
Must the charms
Of a heartless woman,
In addition to pain,
Cause his death?