

## “Vamos a Bailar/ Let’s Dance: Son Jarocho Dance and Music for Kids”

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This workshop will provide students the opportunity to expand their knowledge of dance and culture through an active participation and exploration of *son jarocho* dance and music from the Mexican state of Veracruz. Son Jarocho is an Afro Mexican folk tradition that originates in the southern part of Veracruz, but can now be found in many parts of the world. In this workshop, students will view a video, learn about the dance form’s historical context and geographical location, musical instrumentation, as well as engage in the dance practice of zapateado. Zapateado is a dance style that uses the feet as a percussive accompaniment to the music. In addition to executing fundamental dance steps and learning about the traditional instruments of this form, students will also learn about the *fandango*, the community creation of son jarocho.

Suggested Grade Levels: 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>

Country of Origin: Mexico

Region: Veracruz

Genre of Dance: Folk and Social Dance

Keywords: Son jarocho, Zapateado, Fandango, Tarima, Jarana, Veracruz

Son jarocho is an Afro-diasporic dance and music culture whose origins have been traced to the seventeenth century sotavento region of southern Veracruz, México. *Zapateado* is intricate, percussive dancing that occurs on top of a wooden platform known as a *tarima*. Dancers stomp, strike, pause, slide, and shuffle their feet in rhythmic syncopation to the *son*, or music connected to zapateado. Zapateado is a fundamental element of the fandango which is a gathering of musicians, singers, and dancers in son jarocho culture. Son jarocho music is accompanied by the rhythms of musicians playing unique regional instruments like the guitars: *jarana* and the *guitarra de son*, and a *quijada de burro* or jaw bone of a donkey. "La Bamba" is among the best known son jarocho songs inside and outside Mexico. Practitioners form a circle around the tarima to perform sones all through the night. The fandangos of Veracruz are communal festivities that have their roots in rural *campesino* or countryside traditions. Family and friends of all ages come together in celebration of a special event or occasion, such as a religious holiday or birthday.

In the videos showcased below, musicians can be seen rhythmically plucking their guitars while dancers primarily use their feet for dancing and for accompaniment to the music.

### **Son Jarocho Fandango Video Links:**

- FANDANGO SANTIAGO TUXTLA "La Bamba" 2014 HD. Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cK209qb1Hmk>.
- Santiago Tuxtla 1991 fandango <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BmOxRF7fFUc>
- fandango - buscando al mono blanco <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BLr5LtutgEE>



Son Jarocho Fandango



Jaranas in various sizes.



Guitarra de son, also known as a requinto jarocho



Quijada de burro



Map of Mexico