

# GUESS THE DANCE!

It only takes about 6 minutes to listen/watch the excerpts for all of these dances, then you'll be all ready for the Guess the Dance Game! For more exploration, a number of videos of these dances can be seen on Youtube.

## **Hopak** (Ukraine, Trepak from Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*)

The Hopak (or Trepak) is a Ukrainian folk dance. The Hopak is usually improvised - there is no sequence of steps. The name comes from "hopaty," which means "to leap and stamp one's feet."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qiiuN9eAy9Y>

## **Adowa Dance** (Ghana, Africa, accompanied by drums)

Adowa is a traditional dance of the people from the Akan community in the west African country of Ghana. It is a way for people to express themselves with physical movement, and is often performed at marriages, funerals, and other important cultural events. The music for Adowa dance is usually played by drums and bell, often with many complex rhythms.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pVI8d1v-qR8>

## **El jarabe tapatio** (Mexico, Hat Dance)

El jarabe tapatio is the national dance of Mexico, often called "the Mexican Hat Dance." The name "El jarabe" comes from the Arabic word for mixture of herbs, referring to different music and dance sources that combine in this dance. "Tapatio" refers to the people from Guadalajara, the area where this dance originated. The music is often played by mariachi bands.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5cNEwB3e\\_ao](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5cNEwB3e_ao)

## **Waltz** (Europe, *Blue Danube* by Johann Strauss, Jr.)

A dance with three beats in the measure that involves gracefully sliding across the floor. Usually danced by two people, often in ballrooms, the waltz developed over 400 years ago, and became particularly popular in Austria in the 19th century. Johann Strauss (1804-1849) and Johann Strauss, Jr. (1825-1899) were very famous for the many waltzes they composed. Waltz (Main theme and Waltzing begins at 1:40)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZQ2mSkZ2oB4>

## **Tarantella** (Taranto, Italy, lively triple-time dance)

A fast dance in 6/8 or 12/8 time that is often done by two people since it was considered unlucky to dance it alone. The Tarantella is thought to have developed before the 1500's. There was a myth during the 17th and 18th centuries that the frenzied dancing of the Tarantella could rid a person of the poison from the bite of tarantula spider. Both the dance and the spider get their name from the southern Italian city of Taranto.

(google link to MP3 post): <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1-RYihd2QikJx4Jvzk9uKxHnnVTpgLZGf>

## **Mambo** (Latin Dance from Cuba; Mambo from West Side Story, arr. Robert Longfield)

The mambo originated in Cuba in the 1940's and became popular in Latin America and the United States. Developed as a slightly slower version of the faster danzón, the mambo can feature freer movements and complicated steps by those who learn to dance it well. There is a Mambo scene in Leonard Bernstein's *West Side Story*. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ERvTs4I7Xtk>