

# Let's Play, Dance, and Sing: Mexican Children's Repertoire and Play Parties

By Gabriela Montoya-Stier

## Rhymes

### Spanish

**A, el burro se va;**  
E, el burro se fue;  
I, el burro está aquí;  
O, el burro se ahogó;  
U, el burro eres tú.

**Una viejita,**  
Juntando su leñita,  
Le agarró el aguacero,  
Y se metió a su covachita.

**No tengo manita,**  
No tengo manita,  
Porque la tengo,  
Desconchinfladita.

**Sana, Sana**  
Colita de rana  
Sin no sanaras hoy,  
Sanaras mañana.

**Este robó un huevito.**  
Este te lo puso a asar.  
Este le puso la sal.  
Este se lo comió.  
Y este perro viejo lo fue a contar.

### Literal Translation

A, the donkey is leaving;  
E, the donkey is gone;  
I, the donkey is here;  
O, the donkey drowned;  
U, the donkey is you.

A little old lady,  
Was gathering wood,  
A thunderstorm took her by surprise,  
And she went into her hut.

I don't have a hand,  
I don't have a hand,  
Because I have it,  
Broken

Heal, Heal  
Tail of a frog  
If you don't heal today,  
You will heal tomorrow.

This one stole a little egg.  
This one put on the grill.  
This one put salt on it.  
This one ate it.  
And this old dog went to tell about it.

# Aserrín, Aserrán

s, s, r  
A - se - rrin,

s, s, d  
a - se - rran

s, s, r r s, s, d  
los ma - de - ros de San Juan

## Literal Translation:

Sawdust, sawdust the lumbermen of Saint John,  
They ask for bread and they don't get it,  
They ask for cheese and they get a bone,  
And they sit down to cry at the edge of the entrance hall.

## No Tengo Manita, variant

d d d m s s s l s l s s  
No ten - go ma - ni - ta, no ten - go ma - ni - ta,

d d r m m m r m r d d  
por - que la ten - go des - con - chi - fla - di - ta.

**No tengo manita,**  
No tengo manita,  
Porque la tengo,  
Desconchinfladita.

I don't have a hand,  
I don't have a hand,  
Because I have it,  
Broken

## Caracol

2/4

Ca ra col col col

3

Sa ca tu cuer - nos al sol.

5

Que tu ma - dre y tu pa - dre

7

tam - bien los sa - co.

### Literal Translation

Snail, took out your antennas to the sun.  
That your mother and your father already did.

## Tortillitas

2/4

s s m m s s m m s s s m m s s m m

Tor - ti - lli - tas de man - te - ca pa - ra ma - má quees - tá con - ten - ta

s s m m s s m m s s s m m s s m m

tor - ti - lli - tas de sa - va - do pa - ra - pa - pá quees - táe - no - ja - do. -

### Literal Translation:

Little tortillas of lard for mama who is happy,  
Little tortillas of bran for papa who is mad.

# La Vieja Inez

l s l s m l l s

Tan, Tan. ¿Quien es? La Vie - jaI - nez.

l l s s l l s m l l s

¿Que que - ri - a? Un lis - ton. ¿De que co - lor?

**Literal Translation:**  
 Tan, tan. (Knock, knock.)  
 The old woman Inez.  
 A ribbon.

Who is it?  
 What does she want?  
 Of what color?

# Este Niño Lindo

m r m f s s l s f m r r s l s f m d r m r d s s

Es - te ni - ño lin - do que na - ció de no - che, quie - re que lo lle - ven a pa - siar en co - che.

m r m f s s l s f m r r s l s f m d r m r d s s

Es - te ni - ño lin - do que - na - ció de dí - a quie - re que lo lle - ven a co - mer san - dí - a.

**Literal Translation:**  
 This beautiful boy that was born at night,  
 Wants us to take him for a car ride.  
 This beautiful boy that was born during the day,  
 Wants us to take him to eat watermelon.



l s m l s m m s s m l s m l  
 ¡Que llue - va, que llue - va! La vir - gen de la cue - va. ¡Que



s m l s m m s s m l s m m  
 llue - va, que llue - va! Los pa - ja - ri - tos can - tan, las



s s m l s m m s s m l s m m  
 nu - bes se le - van - tan, la lu - na se le - van - ta, ¡Que



s m s m s s s s d m  
 sí, Que no, que cai - gaun cha - pa - rron! ¡Que



s m s m s s s s d  
 sí, Que no, que can - teel la - bra - dor!

**Literal Translation:**

Let it rain, let it rain! The virgin of the cave,  
 Let it rain, let it rain! The little birds sing,  
 The clouds raise, the moon rises.  
 Say yes, say no, let a downpour come.  
 Say yes, say no, let the laborer sing.

## Las Estatuas de Marfil

s, s, s, d s, d m d d s, d s, d m d

A las es - ta - tuas de mar - fil, u - no, dos y tres a - si.

Literal Translation: To the ivory statues, one, two, three, like this.

## Las Estatuas de Marfil, variant

s, s, s, d s, d m d d s, d s, d m d d s, s, d s, d m d

A las es - ta - tuas de mar - fil. u - no. dos y tres a - si. El que se mue - va bai - lael twist.

Literal Translation: To the ivory statues, one, two, three, like this. The one that moves dances the twist.

# La Muñeca

s s s s s m d m s d' s  
Ten - gou - na mu - ñe - ca ves - ti - da dea - zul.

5  
l l l l l s f m r s d  
Za - pa - ti - tos blan - cos de - lan - tal de tul.

## Spanish

Tengo una muñeca vestida de azul,  
Zapatitos blancos delantal de tul.

La llevé al mercado se me constipó,  
Le di medicina y se alivió.

Brinca la tablita yo ya la brinqué,  
Bríncala de nuevo que ya me cansé.

Dos y dos son cuatro, cuatro dos son seis,  
Seis y dos son ocho y ocho dieciséis.

## Literal Translation

I have a doll dressed in blue,  
Little white shoes and an apron of tulle.

I took her to the market, and she got constipated,  
I gave her medicine and she got well.

Jump the little board I already jump it,  
Jump it again because I got tired.

Two and two is four, four two is six,  
Six and two is eight and eight is sixteen.

# Dale, Dale

Da - le, da - le, da - le, no pier - das el ti - no

5  
mi - de la dis - tan - cia quchay cn cl ca - mi - no.

## Literal Translation:

Hit it, hit it, hit it,  
Don't miss your aim,  
Measure the distance,  
On the way.

# A Madrú, Señores

s s d' m s s s s d d  
 A Ma - dru se - no - res ven - go de laHa ba - na

5

s s d' m s s s s d d  
 de cor - tar ma - dro - no pa - ra do - na Jua - na.

9

s s d' m s s s s d d  
 La ma - no de - re - cha y des - pues laiz - quier - da;

13

s s d' m s s s s d d  
 y des - pues de la - do y des - pues cos - ta - do

17

s s d' m s s s s d d  
 y des - pues la vuel - ta con - su - re - ve - ren - cia.

21

s d' s s s s d d  
 Tan, Tan, Quien to - ca la puer ta?

24

s d' s s s s d d  
 Tan, Tan! Si se - ra la muer te.

27

s d' s s s s d d  
 Tan, Tan! Yo no sal - go a - brir.

30

s d' s s s s d  
 Tan, Tan! Si ven - dra por mi.



## Spanish

A madrú, señores vengo de la Habana,  
 De cortar madroño para Doña Juana.  
 La mano derecha y después la izquierda  
 Y después de lado y después costado  
 Y después la vuelta con su reverencia.  
 ¡Tan, Tan! ¿Quién toca la puerta?  
 ¡Tan, Tan! Si será la muerta.  
 ¡Tan, Tan! Yo no salgo a abrir.  
 ¡Tan, Tan! Si vendrá por mí.

## English

A "madrú" misters, I come from La Habana,  
 To cut strawberry trees for Mrs. Juana.  
 The right hand and then the left hand,  
 And then to the side and then lying down,  
 And then I turn with your reverence.  
 Tan, Tan! Who knocks on the door?  
 Tan, Tan! If it is the death?  
 Tan, Tan! I'm not going to open.  
 Tan, Tan! If it is coming for me.

## La Cucaracha

s m l l s s f r      l f t t l l s m  
 Ya mu - rio la cu - ca - ra - cha      ya la lle - van aen - te - rrar

s m l l s s f r      l f t t l l s m  
 en - tre cua - tro zo - pi - lo - tes      yun ra - ton de sa - cris - tan.

## Translation:

The cockroach is already dead.  
 They are taking it to be buried.  
 Between four buzzards  
 And one sexton or deacon mouse.

## Tin Marin

Tin Ma-rín de don pin - güé.      Cú - ca - ra má - ca - ra tí - te - re fue.

Yo no fuí, fue té - te.      Pe - ga - le pe - ga - le quee - lla fue.

s, s, d s, d m d  
 E - mi - lia - no noes - taa - qui,  
 s, d s, d m r  
 es - - - ta en su ver - gel,  
 s, r r m f r t, s, l, t, d  
 a - - - brien - do la ro - say ce - rran - doel-cla - vel.

Spanish

Emiliano no esta aqui,  
 esta en su vergel,  
 Abriendo la rosa y cerrando el clavel.

English

Emiliano is not here,  
 He is in his home,  
 Opening a rose and closing the  
 carnation.

Mariquita, la de atras,  
 Que vaya a ver  
 Si vive o muere,  
 Para echarnos a correr.

Mariquita, the one from behind,  
 Go and see if he is alive or dead so  
 that we can start running.

Zapatitos Blancos

Za - pa - ti - tos - - - blan - - - cos,  
 Za - pa - - ti - toa - - - zul  
 Di - me cuán - tos a - - - ños  
 tie - - - nes tú.

Spanish

**Zapatitos blancos,**  
 Zapatito azul,  
 Dime cuántos años  
 Tienes tú.

Literal Translation

Little white shoes,  
 Little blue shoe,  
 Tell me how old  
 You are.

## El Chiquihuite de Algodon

Musical score for 'El Chiquihuite de Algodon'. The score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 2/4. The melody consists of two lines of music. The first line contains the lyrics: 'Ron, Ron chi - qui - hui - te deal - go - don,'. The second line contains the lyrics: 'si seen - o - ja mi co - ma - dre se le par - teel co - ra - zon.' The music is simple and rhythmic, with a mix of quarter and eighth notes.

Source: <http://bibliotecadigital.ilce.edu.mx/Colecciones/index.php?clave=jugamos&pag=5>

## Alfonso XII

18

Musical score for 'Alfonso XII'. The score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 3/4. The melody consists of two lines of music. The first line contains the lyrics: 'l, d m m l, d m m l, d m r f m r'. The second line contains the lyrics: 'Don - de va, Al - fon - so Do - ce, don - de vas, tris - te de ti?'. The music is simple and rhythmic, with a mix of quarter and eighth notes.

¿Donde vas, Alfonso Doce,  
donde vas, triste de ti?  
Voy en busca de Mercedes  
que ayer tarde la perdí.  
Ya Mercedes esta muerta,  
Y es verdad porque la vi.  
Cuatro dupues la llevaban  
por las calles de Madrid.  
Y la corte le decia:  
"Alfonso, tened valor."  
Al subir las escaleras,  
Alfonso se desmayo  
Los zapatos que llevaba  
eran de puro charol.  
Probrecita de Mercedes,  
muerta ya como una flor.  
La corona que cenía  
era de puro marfil.  
El velo que le cubria  
era de rosa carmin.  
Los faroles de palacio  
ya no quieren alumbrar,  
Y es que ya murio Mercedes,  
y luto quieren guardar.

Where are you going, Alfonso XII?  
Where are you going so sadly?  
I am looking for Mercedes because  
I lost yesterday.  
Mercedes is already dead and it is  
True because I saw her.  
Four dukes carried her through  
Streets of Madrid.  
And the court kept telling him  
"Alfonso, be brave"  
Upon going up the stairs  
Alfonso fainted.  
The shoes that she wore, were  
Made patent leather  
Poor little Mercedes,  
She died like a flower.  
The crown she wore  
Was of pure ivory  
The veil covered her was made  
Of crimson rose.  
The lanterns in the castle no  
longer want to light.  
Because Mercedes has died,  
And they are in mourning.

# Don Gato

19

s, m m m r d t, f  
Es - ta - ba el ga - to sen - ta - do  
s, r r r s f m d  
en su si - lli - ta de pa - lo  
d l l l s f m s  
con som - bre - ri - to de pa - ja  
l s s r f t, d d  
co - mo va - lien - te sol - da - do.

## Spanish

Estaba el gato sentado,  
En su sillita de palo,  
Con sombrerito de paja  
Como valiente soldado.

Llegó la carta de España,  
Que si quería ser casado,  
Con la gatita morisca  
Del ojito aceitunado.

Su papá dijo que sí,  
Su mamá dijo que no,  
Y el gatito de cuidado  
Del tejado se cayó.

Médicos y cirujanos,  
Vengan a curar el gato,  
Procuren que se confiese  
De lo que se haya robado:

Salchichón de la despensa  
Y la carne del tejado.

Last verse starts on measure 6

## English Translation

The cat was sitting,  
In his chair made out of sticks,  
With his straw hat  
Like a brave soldier.

The letter came from Spain,  
If he wanted to marry,  
The Moorish cat  
With olive colored eyes.

His dad said yes,  
His mom said no,  
And the cat trying to be careful  
From the rooftop he fell.

Medics and surgeons,  
Come to heal the cat,  
Make sure that he confesses  
Of what he has stolen:

Sausage from the pantry  
And the meat from the rooftop.

**C**

s s m m d d | m m d l s s  
 U - na ra - ta vie - ja Quee - ra plan - cha - do - ra

3

l l f l s m s f m r d d  
 Por plan-char su fal - da se que - mo la co - la

5

s s m m d d | m m d l s s  
 Se pu - so po - ma - da sea - ma - rroun tra - pi - to

7

l l f l s m s f m r d d  
 ya la po - bre ra - ta le que - doun ra - bi - to

9

s s m m d d | m m d l s s  
 le - ro le - ro le - ro le - ro le - ro la

11

l l f l s m s f m r d  
 Es - ta ra - ta vie - ja no sa - be plan-char

**Literal Translation:**

An old rat who was an ironer,  
 She ironed her skirt and burned her tail.  
 She put some cream and tied a small cloth,  
 And the poor rat, she got a little tail (or stump).  
 Lero, lero, lero, lero, lero, la.  
 This poor rat does not know how to iron.

# El Tecolote

Te-co lo te de gua - da - na, pa - ja - ro ma - dru - ga - dor

5 me pres - ta-ras tus a - li tas me pres - ta-ras tus a - li tas me pres - ta-ras tus a - li - tas

12 pa - rair a ver a mia - mor, pa - rair a ver a mia - mor.

17 Ti-cu ri cu ri cu ri cu, ti-cu-ri cu ri cu ri cu, ti cu ri cu ri cu ri cu

24 Po - bre - ci to te co lo te, ya se can sa de llo rar.

Mendoza, V.T and Mendoza V.R. *Estudio Y Clasificación de la Música Tradicional Hispánica de Nuevo México*. UNAM: México 1986 p. 516  
Sung as by students Coronado School, Collected in Albuquerque, NM by Dr. Thomas M. Pearce