

## MALAGUENA by ISAAC ALBENIZ

The Phoenicians sailed down the southern coast until they came to another ancient city called Malaga. At Malaga they constructed a huge fish factory for the purposes of processing the giant bluefin tuna that were abundant in the surrounding waters of the Mediterranean.

Catching these enormous torpedo shaped fish had its own superstitions, fears and legends. It too, was a yearly rite and very dangerous. The fishermen who were to signal the mysterious and sudden appearance of these giant fish told one another stories to keep up their courage. These became known in Andalusia as the Tales of the Fishermen. The fishermen would yell out to one another across the water from their place in the rocks at the Pillars of Hercules (known as the Straits of Gibraltar) through which the big fish had to swim. This was also a way of keeping up one's courage during the ancient rite and making sure everyone was accounted for.

The Phoenician fandango found its way to Malaga and imbued the Dance of Malaga with many of its oriental characteristics. One of these was the hypnotic like quality of the rhythm. Another was an actual dance movement called the Wrist Rotation. Perhaps you would like to try a few wrist rotations. You may sit or stand.

### THE WRIST ROTATION

Hold arms out in front of the body. Slowly revolve the wrists towards the inside letting thumb and 3<sup>rd</sup> finger touch when the rotation is complete.

Count to 3 on each count do a wrist rotation. Then reverse and do another 3 to outside.

Here is the Malaguena by Isaac Albeniz. Listen for this rhythm (play the rhythmic fragment) **SEE HOW MANY TIMES IT REPEATS ITSELF.**