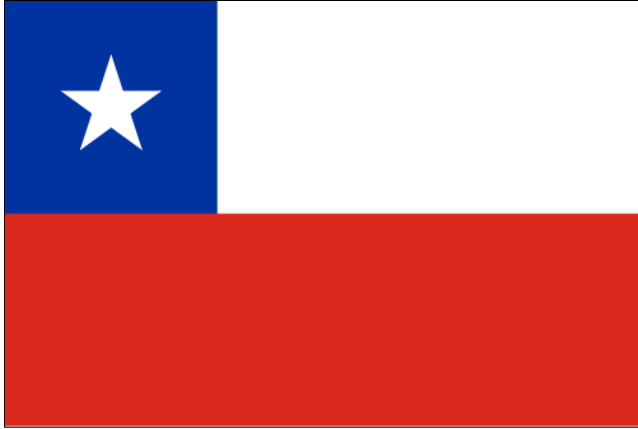




Cueca Chilena Verse (Chile):

The cueca is a national dance in Chile. Poems, or lyrics, are written for it, often emphatic ones with hard beats. A stanza is 8 lines long and one stanza can be the whole poem. The syllables in the lines are: 9/7/9/7/8/9/9/9 with an abcBBded rhyme scheme. The 5th line repeats the 4th line with the word *Si'* (Spanish) or *Yes* as the first word. Also, there is a slight shift or pause between lines five and six, as though the last three lines answer, clarify, or change *perspective* a bit. In my poem (below) the first half speaks to what a poet can do. The last three lines exhort the listener to do just that. It's a subtle shift, but an important one for this form. For some of the added emphasis the cueca needs I've started each line with a hard beat. (Trochaic meter works well with the cueca form. A HARD-*soft* beat.) Also, there are often exclamations employed. This is one place where you can use exclamation points to your heart's content!

AN EXAMPLE:

A WRITER

Poets write capturing spring and fall,
lovely summer, winter too.
They can look and listen, smell and taste
making life feel fresh, feel new.
Yes! Making life feel fresh, feel new.
Don't be shy! Know the dark, trust the light.
Share the joy of seasons in your life.
Touch the hearts of those you love—and write!

Shutta

RESOURCES

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/48762315>

<https://www.spanish.academy/blog/la-cueca-chiles-rooster-courtship-national-dance/>