

Juan Lémann

Variaciones sobre el tema
“La Vaca Lechera”
y otras humoradas







Juan Lémann
(1928 – 1998)

Composer, pianist and university professor, Juan Lémann was born in Vendôme, France, in 1928. He settled in Chile since 1932, died in Santiago, in May 1998.

He studied Architecture at the Catholic University of Chile and performed the totality of his musical studies of piano and composition at the National Conservatory of Music of the University of Chile, with distinguished professors such as René Amengual, Rosita Renard, Pedro Humberto Allende, Juan Orrego and Gustavo Becerra. He obtained the highest awards of the Conservatory, the Premios Orrego Carvallo and Rosita Renard.

Between 1948-1960 he developed a brilliant career as a solo pianist, activity that he abandoned subsequently to dedicate himself primarily to university teaching and composition.

He performed for more than 40 years a fruitful teaching and academic labor, mainly at the Faculty of Arts of the University of Chile, of which he was Titular Professor and Vice-dean. In 1970-71, funded by the Fulbright Commission, he conducted research on postgraduate contemporary music at the Juilliard School of Music of New York.

He was President of the National Association of Composers, member of the board of directors

for several years and Member of Number of the Chilean Academy of Fine Arts, in addition to being co-founder and member of the executive of various organizations and institutions of artistic character and cultural. He also stood out equally as director of coral.

His catalog includes works for orchestra, various chamber groups, instruments soloists, voice and choir, as well as music for ballet, theater, cinema, mime, hymns institutional and compositions of didactic and religious character.

Variaciones sobre el tema "La Vaca Lechera" y otras humoradas

Piotr Tchaikovsky complained about the immense popularity of his "Vals de la Flores", much more known than his great symphonic and operatic works. Camille Saint-Saëns thought about burning the score and prohibiting its execution of his "Carnival of the Animals" that was much more appreciated than his monumental symphonic or choral works. Sergei Prokofiev dreamed of the success of his ingenuous musical tale "Pedrito and the Wolf" and of the relative lack of recognition of his most grandiose and serious works.

It is the same case of Juan Lémann (1928-1998) who, having secured his place among the greatest composers of Chilean Music, is remembered, above all, for his *Variaciones sobre La Vaca Lechera*.

Estas *Variaciones* nacieron como una alegre humorada, en su época de estudiante, en el seno del antiguo Conservatorio Nacional de Música, causando primero el estupor y luego el regocijo y general aprobación de los venerables y serios profesores y compositores de la época. Esta situación se mantiene hasta ahora entre todos los amantes de la buena música.

La finura con que Juan Lémann imagina a los más grandes genios de la música, creando variaciones sobre el muy popular tema de 'La Vaca Lechera', de modo alguno significa ridiculizar a estos autores. Más bien, extrae de ellos sus elementos más esenciales y admirados. Tan cierto es esto que la obra de Lémann es usada habitualmente para la enseñanza de las características de los compositores y estilos de la Música Docta.

Rara vez se unen calidad musical y refinado humor. Muy bien lo expresó el destacado compositor y académico, Juan Amenábar, en el discurso de recepción e incorporación de Lémann a la Academia Chilena de Bellas Artes en 1983, al destacar las características de su obra: ... "Sin embargo Lémann agrega en algunas de sus obras (¿o en casi todas?) otro ingrediente que es más bien escaso en la composición nacional. Me refiero a esa "sal del espíritu" que es el humor, elemento en cuyo empleo musical nuestro compositor ha demostrado ser un maestro. Muchos de los presentes conocen sus "ironías musicales", sus variaciones increíbles sobre temas

vulgares, sus improvisaciones e imitaciones estilísticas que han logrado desmitificar pelucas empolvadas y tacones altos, sollozos románticos, o sesudos y aburridos dodecafonismos... ¿acaso las alegrías, las risas, los llantos originados en esas risas, que Juan Lémann ha sido capaz de provocar en nosotros con el juego de su arte y con su espíritu, no serían suficientes para justificar plenamente las circunstancias de haberlo conocido y manifestarle nuestro agradecimiento por su entrega siempre generosa?..."

Es de interés transcribir la explicación que el propio compositor dejó sobre estas *Variaciones*, poco tiempo antes de fallecer, y que se refiere a su partitura escrita:

Variación 1: Al estilo de Johann Sebastian Bach. Presenta una fisonomía basada en el estilo polifónico-imitativo de este maestro del Barroco, sin omitir la pomosidad de la exposición del tema y de sus cadencias. Una parte central que comienza en modo menor, sirve de nexo a una reexposición en que la grandiosidad se apodera de un final solemne.

Variación 2: Al estilo de Georg Friedrich Haendel. Presenta en sí un pequeño grupo de variaciones que hace alusión al carácter más festivo de este compositor. El tempo di minueto hace una referencia al comienzo del Minueto de Paderewski que, aunque no es del Barroco viene al caso por el uso de adornos y por su graciosa extemporaneidad

Variación 3: Al estilo de Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Además de hacer referencia a un cierto tipo de melodía acompañada de este autor, termina sus frases musicales con cadencias femeninas caracterizadas por el uso de retardos armónicos. El uso de adornos melódicos al final de la variación subraya el clima mozartiano y la idea de variación.

Variación 4: Al estilo de Ludwig van Beethoven (Marcha Fúnebre). No requiere de mucha explicación pues es una parodia de la Marcha Fúnebre de la Sonata Op. 26 de este compositor. No deja de presentar una típica parte central en que el tema en registro agudo se vuelve celestial y parece una plegaria.

Variación 5: Al estilo de Frédérick Chopin - Johannes Brahms. No se inclina por ninguno de estos dos compositores en especial, pero hace hincapié en el carácter sentimental y apasionado del Romanticismo. La interpretación subraya este hecho haciendo uso del rubato (cierta irregularidad rítmica) que acentúa los momentos de mayor emoción de frases, períodos y secciones de este trozo.

Variación 6: Al estilo de Claude-Achille Debussy. No hace falta decir que la idea fue de presentar el tema en un ambiente acuático producido por el uso de la escala por tonos, unida al sutil uso del pedal del piano, todo lo anteriormente dicho, reforzado por una armonía característica del *Impresionismo francés*.

Variación 7: Al estilo de Sergei Prokoffiev (Pedrito y la Vaca). Este compositor no podría haber hecho menos que sonreír viendo a su lobo (de "Pedrito y el Lobo") transformado en una vaca lechera. En el transcurso de la variación se sugieren algunos temas de sus personajes, todo ello subrayado por ciertos tipos de enlaces armónicos del estilo.

Variación 8: Al estilo de Igor Stravinski. Alude en su mayor parte a la suite "Pétrouchka" de este autor, con algunos motivos interpuestos y fácilmente reconocibles.

En la segunda parte de la serie de variaciones, el tema se adapta a diferentes estilos según las zonas o países en referencia.

Variación 9: La Vaca en China. En esta variación es preferible entregar la música a la fantasía del auditor quien podrá imaginar todo un paisaje y escenario típicamente oriental.

Variación 10: La Vaca en Argentina (Tango). Es obvio que esta variación caricaturiza algunos elementos del tango. Se podría decir que ciertos giros melódicos, cadencias y ritmos subrayan el carácter arrabalero de esta variación.

Variación 11: La Vaca en EE.UU. (Boogie Woogie) El Jazz de la década del 40 aparece estampado en todo este trozo que no necesita

más comentarios. Los jóvenes deberán primero ambientarse en una época que no conocieron, llena de vigor pese a los sufrimientos de la segunda guerra mundial.

Variación 12: La Vaca en Hungría. (Rapsodia Húngara). La música de los zíngaros y la de Franz Liszt se mezclan en una vigorosa danza que busca algún parecido con las rapsodias de este compositor. El apasionamiento se apodera de la forma del trozo que oscila entre lo improvisativo (rapsódico) y lo danzable.

El autor.

Las Humoradas

1. Piano mecánico
2. Rondó de Mozart con nota falsa
3. Claro de luna y Night and Day
4. Marcha fúnebre de Chopin y Volga, Volga
5. Tango apasionado
6. Vals de Strauss siútico
7. Gran Obertura mexicana
8. Vals Antofagasta perjudicado
9. Mozart en España

Las Variaciones sobre *La Vaca Lechera* nacieron como una de sus tantas improvisaciones, y sólo después de muchos años de constante popularidad, el autor se vio obligado a grabarlas, y posteriormente, ponerlas en partitura escrita. Incluso, sirvieron de base al ballet "La Vaca Cornelius", estrenado en 1970 por el Ballet de Cámara de la Universidad de Chile, con coreografía de Gaby

Concha. Su éxito y la reposición en 1987 y 1994 se convirtió en un suceso de larga permanencia en cartelera.

La grabación que presentamos, improvisada por el autor, es un documento invaluable en el escaso repertorio del "humor musical verdadero", una aproximación muy sutil a los grandes compositores y estilos, y un cálido homenaje a Juan Lémann, espíritu fino, maestro de generaciones de compositores chilenos, intérprete y compositor de excepción.

Dr. Enrique del Solar Letelier

Para mayor información sobre el compositor, visite su página Web: www.juanlemann.scd.cl



Imagen del Ballet 'La Vaca Cornelius'.



1992. J. Lémann con los pintores
Reinaldo Villaseñor y Sergio Montecinos



1968. Inauguración de la
exposición de sus retratos
de compositores chilenos



1979. En el lanzamiento del libro "Oyendo a Chile" de Samuel Claro, junto al autor y a los compositores Juan Amenábar y Pedro Núñez Navarrete, M. Luisa H. de Lémann, M. Teresa Herreros, editora, y Hernán Poblete, escritor.



1992. Tocando piano
con su nieta Nicole



1996. En Moscú, junto al Embajador James Holger, M.Cecilia de Holger, Andrei Podgorny, Director Academia Musical Grassin y el Dr.Igor Lazarev, Director Depto.Cultura Municipalidad de Moscú.



1983. Durante la ceremonia de su incorporación a la Academia Chilena de Bellas Artes. Junto a los compositores Domingo Santa Cruz, Alfonso Letelier, Luis Merino y Juan Amenábar en el podio.

Juan Lémann (1928 – 1998)

Composer, pianist and university professor, Juan Lémann was born in Vendôme, France, in 1928. Settled in Chile since 1932, he died in Santiago in May 1998.

He studied architecture at the Universidad Católica de Chile, while all his musical studies in piano and composition took place at the Conservatorio Nacional de Música at the Universidad de Chile, with distinguished teachers such as René Amengual, Rosita Renard, Pedro Humberto Allende, Juan Orrego and Gustavo Becerra. He obtained the highest honours awarded by the Conservatorio: the Orrego Carvallo and Rosita Renard Prizes.

From 1948-1960 he built up a brilliant career as a solo pianist, subsequently abandoning this activity in order to dedicate himself primarily to university teaching and composition.

For over forty years he carried out fruitful teaching and academic work, mainly at the Faculty of Arts of the Universidad de Chile, where he was Full Professor and Vice Dean. In 1970-71 he did postgraduate research into contemporary music at the Juilliard School of Music in New York, with a scholarship from the Fulbright Commission.

He was President of the Asociación Nacional de Compositores, member of the board for

several years and Full Member of the Academia Chilena de Bellas Artes, in addition to being co-founder and leading member of various artistic and cultural organizations and institutions. He was equally outstanding as a choir director.

His catalogue includes works for orchestra, different chamber groupings, solo instruments, voice and choir, in addition to music for ballet, theatre, cinema, mime, institutional hymns and compositions of a didactic and religious nature.

Variations on the theme “La Vaca Lechera” and other skits

Piotr Tchaikovsky used to complain about the immense popularity of his “Waltz of the Flowers”, much better known than his great symphonic and operatic works. Camille Saint-Saëns thought about burning the score and forbidding the performance of his “Carnival of the Animals”, which was appreciated far more than his monumental symphonic or choral works. Sergei Prokofiev smiled at the success of his naïve musical tale: “Peter and the Wolf” and the relative ignorance of his grander and more serious works.

It is the same story with Juan Lémann (1928-1998) who, having assured his place among the greatest composers of Serious Music in Chile, is remembered above all for his *Variations on La Vaca Lechera*.

These *Variations* were created as a cheerful skit in his student days, in the heart of the ancient Conservatorio Nacional de Música, causing first astonishment and then rejoicing and general approval among the venerable, serious professors and composers of the time. This situation has continued to this day among all lovers of good music.

The sensitivity with which Juan Lémann imagines the great musical geniuses creating variations on the very popular melody of "La Vaca Lechera" in no way means making fun of these composers. Instead he extracts from them the elements that are most essential and admired. This is so true, that Lémann's work is frequently used to teach the characteristics of the composers and styles of Serious Music.

It is very unusual to see musical quality and refined humour together. Juan Amenábar, distinguished composer and academic, expressed it very well in the speech with which Lémann was welcomed and received into membership of the Academia Chilena de Bellas Artes in 1983, when he emphasized the characteristics of his work:..... "However, Lémann adds, in some (or almost all?) his works, a further ingredient that tends to be lacking in national composition. I refer to that "salt of the spirit" which is humour, an element used musically by our composer with a master's touch. Many of those present are familiar with his "musical ironies", his incredible variations on vulgar themes, his improvisations and stylistic imitations which

have managed to dispel the myths surrounding powdered wigs and high heels, romantic sobs or lofty, boring dodecaphonisms... Would the fun, the laughter, the tears following that laughter, which Juan Lémann has been able to produce in us with the play of his art and his spirit, not fully justify the circumstances of having known him and the expression of our gratitude to him for his ever-generous giving?....

It is interesting to transcribe what the composer himself wrote about these *Variations* shortly before he died, with reference to the score that he left in writing, which shows certain differences compared with the improvisation recorded on this disc:

Variation 1: In the style of Johann Sebastian Bach. This offers a physiognomy based on the polyphonic, imitative style of this master of the Baroque, without omitting the pomposity of the theme and its cadencies. A central section that starts in minor mode serves as a link to a recapitulation in which grandeur takes over for a solemn finale.

Variation 2: In the style of Georg Frederick Händel. This presents a little group of variations in itself, which alludes to the more festive character of this composer. The tempo di minueto makes a reference to the beginning of the Paderewsky Minuet which, though not Baroque, fits in well with its use of ornaments and its amusing extemporaneity.

Variation 3: In the style of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. In addition to making reference to a certain type of accompanied melody by this composer, it ends its musical phrases with feminine cadences characterised by the use of harmonic retards. The use of melodic ornaments at the end of the variation underlines the Mozartian climate and the idea of variation.

Variation 4: In the style of Ludwig van Beethoven (Funeral March): This needs little explanation since it is a parody of the Funeral March from Sonata Op. 26 by this composer. It does not fail to include a typical centre section in which the theme, in a high register, grows celestial and resembles a prayer.

Variation 5: In the style of Frederick Chopin – Johannes Brahms. It does not lean specifically to either of these two composers, but puts emphasis on the sentimental, passionate nature of Romanticism. The interpretation underlines this fact by the use of *rubato* (a certain rhythmic irregularity), that accentuates the moments of highest emotion in phrases, periods and sections of this piece.

Variation 6: In the style of Claude-Achille Debussy. It goes without saying that the idea was that of introducing the theme in an aquatic environment, produced by the use of the tonal scale, blended by a subtle use of the piano pedal: all of the above, reinforced by a harmony typical of French *Impressionism*.

Variation 7: In the style of Sergei Prokofiev (Peter and the Cow). This composer would have had to smile at seeing his wolf (from "Peter and the Wolf") transformed into a dairy cow. In the course of the variation, there are suggestions of some of the themes of his characters, all underlined by certain types of harmonic links in the style.

Variation 8: In the style of Igor Stravinsky. Most of it alludes to the "Petroushka" suite by this composer, with some of the motifs interposed and easily recognizable.

In the second part of the series of variations, the theme is adapted to different styles according to the zones or countries concerned.

Variation 9: La Vaca en China (The Cow in China). In this variation it is preferable to leave the music to the fantasy of the listener who can imagine a complete, typically oriental landscape and scenario.

Variation 10: La Vaca en Argentina (Tango). This variation obviously caricatures certain elements of the tango. It might be said that certain melodic twists, cadences and rhythms emphasize just how true it is to the roots of the tango.

Variation 11: La Vaca en EE.UU. (Boogie Woogie) The jazz of the 1940s appears stamped on the whole of this piece, which needs no further comment. Young people will first of all have to get used to an era that they never knew, full of vigour, despite the

sufferings of the Second World War.

Variation 12: La Vaca en Hungría (Hungarian Rhapsody). The music of the gypsies and that of Franz Liszt blend in a vigorous dance that seeks some similarity with the rhapsodies by this composer. Passion seizes the form of the piece, which oscillates between an improvised (rhapsodic) style and dance.

The composer

The *Variaciones sobre la Vaca Lechera* were born as one of his many improvisations, and it was only after many years of constant popularity that the author found himself obliged to record them and later put them down in a written score. In fact they served as the basis of the ballet "La Vaca Cornelia", first performed in 1970 by the Ballet de Cámara de la Universidad de Chile with choreography by Gaby Concha. Its success and restaging in 1987 and 1994 turned it into an event with a long record on the entertainment listings.

The recording that we present here, improvised by the composer, is an invaluable document in the sparse repertoire of "real musical humour", a very subtle approach to the great composers and styles and a warm tribute to Juan Lémann, fine spirit, master of generations of Chilean composers, an exceptional performer and composer.

Dr. Enrique del Solar Letelier

For further information about the composer, visit his Web page: www.juanlemann.scd.cl

Back Cover of CD

Variaciones Vaca Lechera SVR-3005-9

(....." Lémann adds, in some (or almost all?) his works, a further ingredient that tends to be lacking in national composition. I refer to that "salt of the spirit" which is humour, an element used musically by our composer with a master's touch. Many of those present are familiar with his "musical ironies", his incredible variations on vulgar themes, his improvisations and stylistic imitations which have managed to dispel the myths surrounding powdered wigs and high heels, romantic sobs or lofty, boring dodecaphonisms... Would the fun, the laughter, the tears following that laughter, which Juan Lémann has been able to produce in us with the play of his art and his spirit, not fully justify the circumstances of having known him and the expression of our gratitude to him for his ever-generous giving?....

Juan Amenábar Ruiz
Composer and Academic

(Extract from the speech made when Juan Lémann was presented and became a member of the Academia Chilena de Bellas Artes,
23rd November 1983)

Matriz Original/Original Master: "Ironías Musicales",
Santiago-Chile, 1966. Recorded by Juan Lémann

**Registro de Propiedad Intelectual/ Registry
of Intellectual Property:** Registered by

Juan Lémann, Santiago, Chile, 1986,
N° 64918 and SCD, N°36985.

Producción/Production: María Luisa Herreros

Masterización Digital/Digital Mastering:

Santiago-Chile, 2002, Heriberto Domínguez

Matriz Digital/Digital Master: SONIMAGENES,

Santiago-Chile, 2007, Félix Rodríguez Betancourt

Texto/Text: Juan Lémann/Enrique del Solar Letelier

Arte de Portada/Cover Art: Luis Nerety

Traducción/Translations: Linda Craddock (Inglés/English)

Fabricación y Distribución/Manufacture and Distribution:

Sociedad SVR Producciones Limitada, Eduardo Hyatt, N°531,
Providencia, Santiago-CHILE. Telephone-Fax number: (56-2) 474-7947.

WEB: www.svrproducciones.cl

E-mail: svr@svrproducciones.cl

WEB: [Juan Lémann:](http://www.juanlemann.scd.cl) www.juanlemann.scd.cl

Printed in Santiago-Chile by CULTURA

Total Time: 26:24

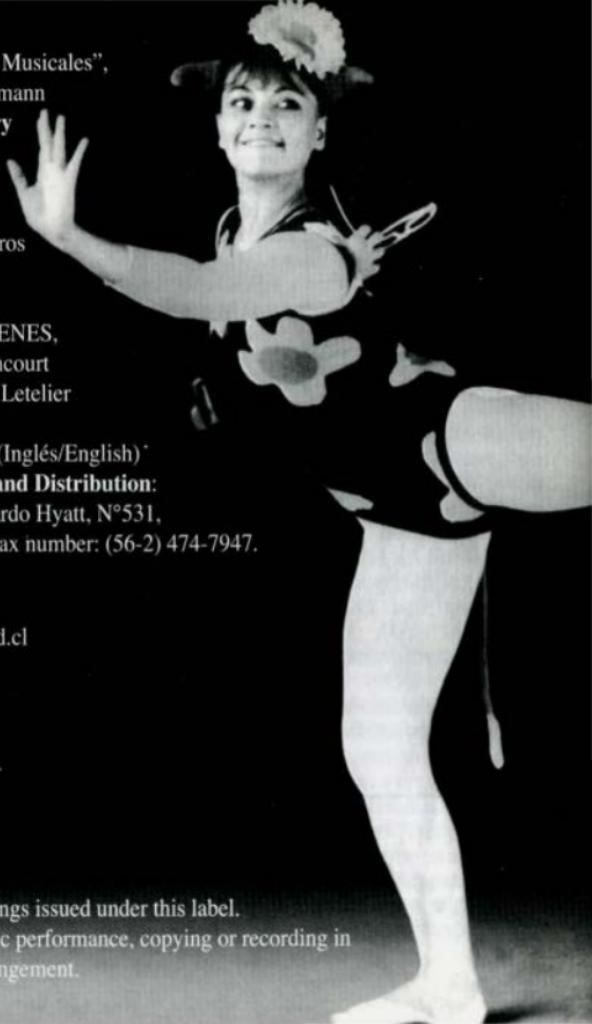
With our appreciation to:

-Heriberto Domínguez

-Dr. Enrique del Solar Letelier

WARNING: Copyright exists for all recordings issued under this label.

Any unauthorized rental, broadcasting, public performance, copying or recording in
any manner whatsoever shall constitute infringement.



Juan Lémann,

Un Espíritu de Amor por la Música



Obertura de Concierto · Variaciones para Piano ·
Cuarteto para Flautín, Dos Flautas y Clavecín ·
Pieza para Dúo para Violín y Violoncello · Leyenda del Mar



FONDART

www.juanlemann.scd.cl
www.svrproducciones.cl

Juan Lémann

Variaciones sobre el tema
"La Vaca Lechera"
 y otras humoradas (1950)
 (Improvisación al piano del mismo autor)

- | | |
|------------------------------|------|
| 1. Tema de la Vaca Lechera . | 0:25 |
|------------------------------|------|

LAS VARIACIONES:

2. Johan Sebastian Bach	0:59
3. Georg Friedrich Haendel	0:32
4. Minueto al estilo barroco	0:57
5. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	0:35
6. Ludwig van Beethoven. 'Marcha Fúnebre'	1:37
7. Frédéric Chopin – Johannes Brahms. 'Vaca romántica'	1:38
8. Claude Debussy. 'La vaca sumergida'	1:10
9. Sergei Prokoffiev. 'Pedrito y la vaca'	0:42
10. Igor Stravinski	0:50
11. Vaca al estilo contemporáneo	0:56
12. La vaca lechera en Argentina	0:52
13. La vaca en Estados Unidos	0:47
14. Una vaca en China	0:44
15. Vaca húngara	1:39

LAS HUMORADAS:

16. Piano mecánico	1:09
17. Rondó de Mozart con nota falsa	1:13
18. Claro de luna y Night and Day	1:09
19. Marcha fúnebre de Chopin y Volga, Volga	0:59
20. Tango apasionado	1:48
21. Vals de Strauss siútico	1:34
22. Gran Obertura mexicana	1:04
23. Vals Antofagasta perjudicado	1:21
24. Mozart en España	1:33

Total time: 26:24