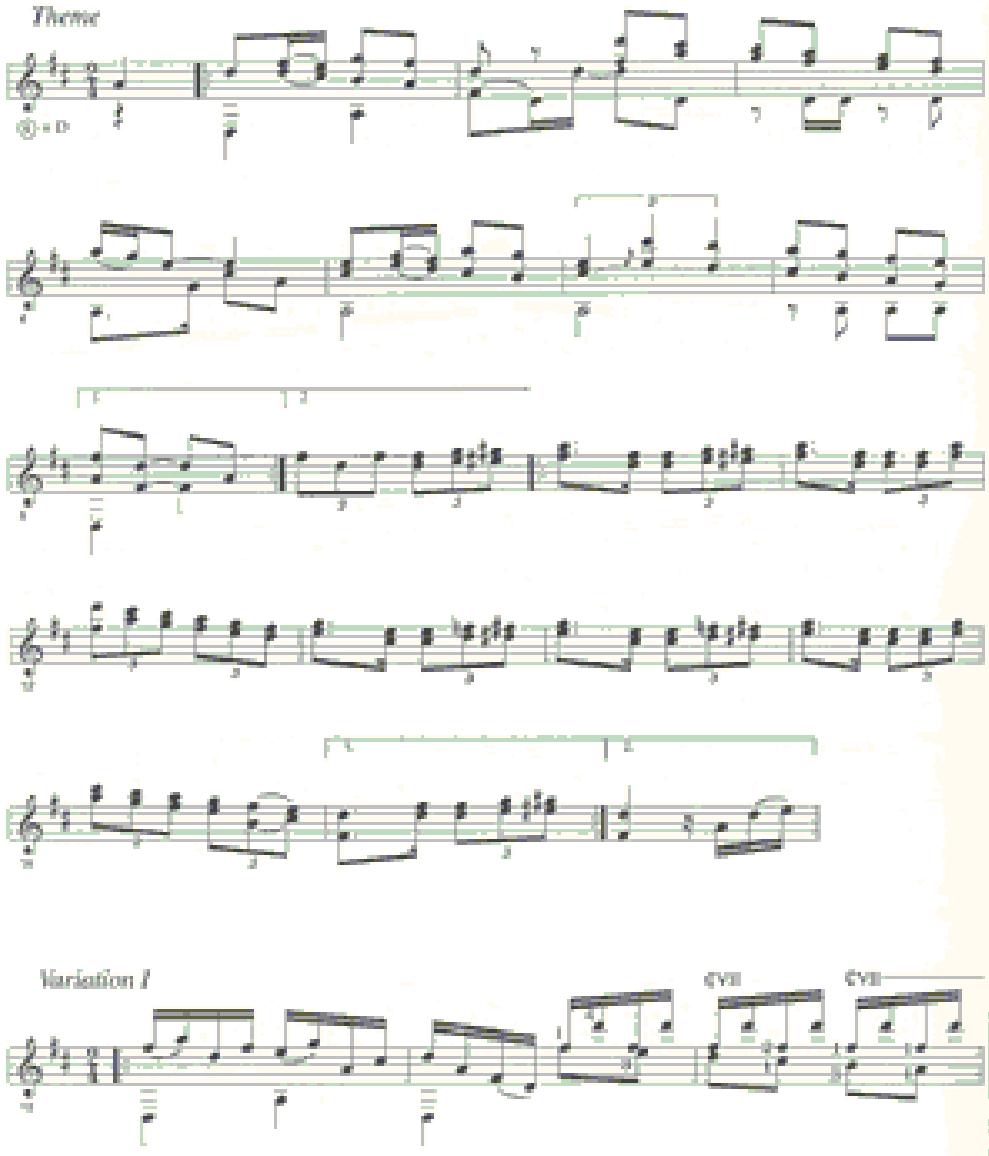
Variaciones sobre el Punto Guanacasteco

Tema con variaciones

Agustín Barrios Mangoré



Critical Notes

The Complete Works of Agustín Barrios Mangoré

by Richard D. Stover

Volume 1

No. 1 *Abri la Puerta Mi China*

Source: Handwritten manuscript by Dionisio Basulado

This is the earliest composition by Barrios that has been located thus far. The source of this piece is a manuscript (dated December 25, 1925) written by Dionisio Basulado of Asunción, Paraguay, a lifelong friend to whom Barrios dedicated his *Vals op. 8, no. 4*. Exhibiting traits of the tango, *Abri la Puerta Mi China* ("Open the Door My Country Girl") reveals that by his twentieth year Barrios had mastered the entire fingerboard as well as a basic knowledge of harmonic modulation.

No. 2 *Aconquija*

Sources: Manuscript from Borda y Pagola collection in Barrios' hand
Published in the Di Giorgio Anthology pp. 32-33
Odeon recording 2693-1 (1928)

Also called *Aire de Quena* ("Quena Air"), this work was part of the Suite Andina ("Andean Suite"). The story relates that Barrios was in the Andes in northern Argentina near a peak called Aconquija and one evening he heard from afar the the indigenous flute called quena softly playing the notes that begin this work in the initial six measures. The Borda y Pagola manuscript gives a subtitle to this work of "Aire típico andino – armonizado por A. Barrios" ("Popular Andean Air – harmonized by A. Barrios").

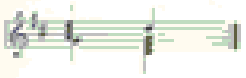
The versions differ in numerous details and the Di Giorgio version varies considerably from the others. The Borda y Pagola manuscript lacks the opening nine measures as well as measures 65 through 72 and also shows measures 16 through 25 written in 3/4 meter. This work dates from at least 1924 (earliest reference thus far from a concert program in Asunción, Paraguay dated November, 1924). Barrios played this work for numerous years before recording it in 1928 (a fact that explains why the recording is preferred).

Measures 8 & 9:

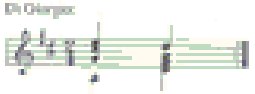
Borda y Pagola & Di Giorgio

Measure 15:

Borda y Pagola manuscript

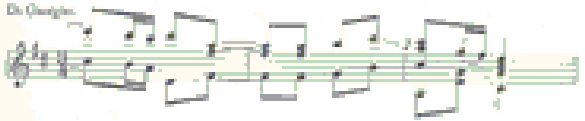


Di Giorgio



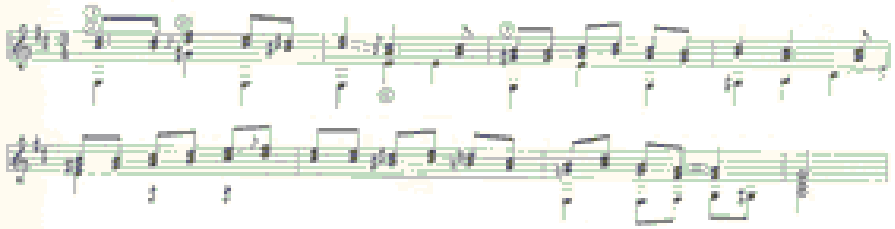
Measures 19-21:

Di Giorgio

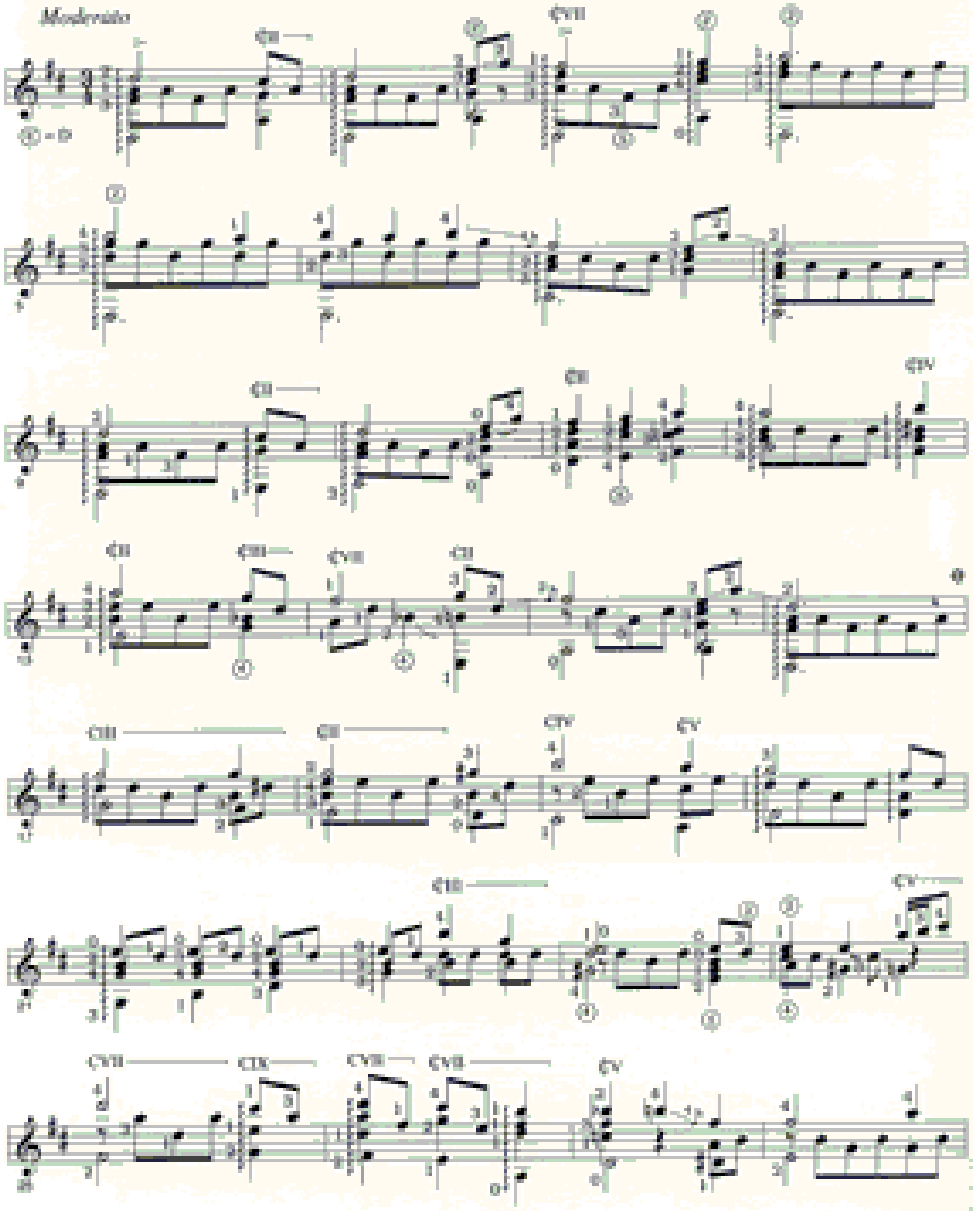


Measures 26-32

Borda y Pagola manuscript



Oración

Agustín Barrios Mangoré

Moderato