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Discoveries from the Fleisher Collection

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Saturday, November 2nd, 2002, 5:00-6:00 p.m.

- [Horatio Parker](#) (1863-1919), [A Northern Ballad](#), op. 46 (1899). Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Karl Krueger. Music in America series. 14:02
- [George Whitefield Chadwick](#) (1854-1931), [Elegy](#) (in memoriam Horatio Parker) (1921). Brno Czech State Philharmonic, Jose Serebrier. Reference Recordings RR-2104. 7:50
- [John Biggs](#) (b.1932), Concerto for Orchestra (1988). Czech National Philharmonic, Paul Freeman. Albany/Troy 394. 22:01

By one year we miss an all-20th-century program this time around, since Horatio Parker composed his *A Northern Ballad* in 1899. This is one of Parker's few works for orchestra alone. He was mainly known for his many choral and vocal works, although this and his *Concerto for Organ* were performed by some of the big orchestras to wide acclaim. Parker and George Chadwick, among others, represent what some call the Second New England School of American composers (the First being the shape-note tunesmiths Billings, Read, Morgan, et al., from the late 1700s).

This Second school influenced American music for years; one of Parker's students was Charles Ives, another was Roger Sessions, one of Chadwick's students was Parker, and Chadwick and Ives both studied organ with Dudley Buck (more about him in a future program). They were mostly forgotten by mid-century, but have now enjoyed a resurgence, in part because of the farsighted conductors Krueger, Serebrier, Neeme Järvi, and others, and also because the music has been saved in places such as the Fleisher Collection. Chadwick's *Elegy* was written in memory of Parker, to honor his former student and lifelong friend.

Turning from the East Coast to the West Coast, we listen to the *Concerto for Orchestra* of John Biggs, who was born in Los Angeles and still lives and writes in California. A meticulous craftsman and colorist, Biggs exploits the different sections of the orchestra to great effect in this melodious and vibrant work.

Hosted by [Kile Smith](#), Curator of the Fleisher Collection, and [Jack Moore](#), Program Director of WRTI. In *Discoveries from the Fleisher Collection* we uncover the unknown, rediscover the little-known, and take a fresh look at some of the remarkable treasures housed in the Fleisher Collection of Orchestral Music in the [Free Library of Philadelphia](#). The Fleisher Collection is the largest lending library of orchestral performance material in the world. For recording details, please go to our [web page](#). For a detailed list of all our shows, please visit our [archives](#).