

Listen to

# Discoveries from the Fleisher Collection

on WRTI 90.1 FM Philadelphia or online at [wrti.org](http://wrti.org)

---

Saturday, March 1st, 2003, 4:40-6:00 p.m.  
(note the early start!)

- [Ferruccio Busoni](#) (1866-1924). Piano Concerto, op. 39 (1903-4). 4. All'italiana, 5. Cantico. Marc-André Hamelin, piano. Mark Elder, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra Men's Chorus. Hyperion 67143. 23:07
- [Gene Gutché](#) (1907-2000). Fifth Symphony for Strings, op. 34 (1962). 1. Perpetuo, 2. Burletta, 3. Mesto, 4. Lesto. Max Rudolf, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. CRI 825. 18:14
- Gene Gutché. Bongo Divertimento, op. 35 (1962). 1. Rondo, 2. Perpetuo, 3. Pettifoggery, 4. Bluebottle Fly, 5. Pasticcio, 6. Magpie, 7. Rondo. CRI 825. 12:07

Ferruccio Busoni's *Piano Concerto* is one of the most difficult pieces in the entire repertoire for the piano, and that's saying something, considering there exist works like the Rachmaninoff *Third Piano Concerto* and the Ives *Concord Sonata*. It is rarely performed and rarely recorded, given its ferocious difficulty, its length of around 75 minutes, and the fact that a male chorus is required for the last movement. But it is well worth seeking out, especially when there is someone like Marc-André Hamelin to tackle it. Here we listen to the last two movements, the All'italiana with its street songs, rambunctiousness and wild key changes, and the Cantico, with its hymn to the eternal. This is a work that is all-encompassing, and Hamelin is incandescent.

We follow with two works by Gene Gutché, who studied piano with Busoni in Berlin, where he was born, before moving to the U.S. He is a strong, individual composer with ties to no school. His music is always energetic and powerful, but he never forgets the gift of melody. The *Fifth Symphony* is brilliant, full of humor and drive as well as depth, and the *Bongo Divertimento* is a *tour de force* for percussion soloist with small orchestra. Instead of an entire battery of instruments, the soloist plays only two bongos, two timbales, and a conga drum, but what a workout they get! In seven short movements, including the hilarious "Bluebottle Fly," in which you can hear the audience laughing, this is a true musical delight.

---

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](#).