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Discoveries from the Fleisher Collection

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Saturday, April 5th, 2003, 5:00-6:00 p.m.

- [Emanuel Leplin](#) (1917-1972). *Symphony No. 2* (1965). 1. Poco vivace—Poco tranquillo; 2. Poco adagio—Andante moderato; 3. Allegro molto vivace; 4. Poco lento—Moderato—Allegro con brio—Vivace assai. San Francisco Symphony, Josef Krips (live, archived recording). 43:58

Emanuel Leplin was born in San Francisco to Russian immigrants. He studied composition in New England with Roger Sessions, then in France with Darius Milhaud and George Enescu, where he also studied violin with Yvonne Astruc. With Pierre Monteux, then the conductor of the San Francisco Symphony, he studied conducting, and was invited by Monteux to join the Symphony as a violist. He also became an accomplished painter.

However, in 1954 he was struck by polio, and confined for eight months to an iron lung. When he emerged, he was paralyzed from the shoulders down, retaining movement only in the thumb and first two fingers of his right hand. With these, he could hold a pencil well enough to compose, and with a brush in his teeth, he could still paint. In 1966, Josef Krips came to Leplin's home, sat next to him, and sang the entire *Symphony No. 2*, stopping only to pause between movements. When he was finished, Krips exclaimed, "It's more complicated than Stravinsky!" Shortly afterward, Krips and the Symphony gave its premiere. Today we will hear that performance. This is a monumental work by an original and strong composer who overcame tremendous physical obstacles for his art.

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](#).