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# Discoveries from the Fleisher Collection

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

- [Louis Gruenberg](#) (1884-1964). *The Enchanted Isle* (1927-33). Czech National Symphony Orchestra, Paul Freeman, Music from the Fleisher Collection, Vol. 1, Albany 467. 16:59
- [Harl McDonald](#) (1899-1955). Concerto for Two Pianos and Orchestra, movements 2 and 3, Andante espressivo, Juarezca. Philadelphia Orchestra, Leopold Stokowski, Jeanne Behrend, Alexander Kelberine, Cala CADC0501. 14:22
- McDonald. San Juan Capistrano, movement 2, Fiesta, Boston Pops Orchestra, Keith Lockhart, RCA Victor 68786. 4:15
- McDonald. Festival of the Workers, movement 2, Dance, Philadelphia, Stokowski, Cala CADC0501. 2:57
- McDonald. Symphony No. 2, movement 2, Rhumba, Philadelphia, Stokowski, Cala CADC0501. 3:38

We were pleased to present Louis Gruenberg as the first composer on our “Music from the Fleisher Collection” CD series on Albany Records, and *The Enchanted Isle* is a beautiful introduction to his music. He may be known mostly for his opera *The Emperor Jones*, which was premiered by the Metropolitan Opera in 1933, and for Academy Award-winning film scores such as *Commandos Strike at Dawn*. But he also wrote many symphonic and chamber works that were well received in their time, including a *Violin Concerto* for Jascha Heifetz. *The Enchanted Isle* is a wistful and frankly sentimental remembrance of lost youth.

Harl McDonald is one of those personages we cannot believe fit so much activity into such a short life. He was, among other things: a concert pianist, a horn player with the Los Angeles Symphony Orchestra, a church organist, the amateur lightweight boxing champion of the Southwestern U.S., a Professor and Chairman of the Music Department at the University of Pennsylvania, an orchestral conductor, Director of the Mendelssohn Club in Philadelphia as well as many other choirs, the General Manager of the Philadelphia Orchestra from 1939 until his death...and a very busy composer. Stokowski, Ormandy, Koussevitsky, and others presented his music, and today we listen to a few excerpts from that beguiling output, including the popular “Rhumba,” which has the distinction of having been played at the 1936 Democratic National Convention.

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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](#).