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# Discoveries from the Fleisher Collection

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Saturday, August 2nd, 2003, 5:00-6:00 p.m.

- [Romeo Cascarino](#) (1922-2002). *Pygmalion* (1954). North German Symphony Orchestra, Wilhelm Rohr, Somerset LP SF-2900. 17:31
- [George Whitefield Chadwick](#) (1854-1931). *Aphrodite*. Czech State Philharmonic Brno, Reference Recordings 2104. 28:18

This month we hear two works connected to one character from Greek mythology. The ballet *Pygmalion* by South Philadelphia native Romeo Cascarino is about the sculptor who, wishing for the ideal woman, creates Galatea. Of course she is only a statue, but so in love is Pygmalion with her that he entreats Venus, the goddess of love, to make her real, which she eventually does. We know the story, changed somewhat as *My Fair Lady*, which attests to the universal appeal of myth. (And didn't fellow South Philadelphian Frankie Avalon approach the same subject in the song "Venus"?) Romeo Cascarino's music shows a strong personality and a marvelous ear for drama and orchestration. He was twice a Guggenheim Fellow, an active teacher, and a composer of many orchestral and chamber works, including an often-performed Bassoon Sonata. He may be best known for his magnificent 1982 opera *William Penn*, staged in Philadelphia's Academy of Music with John Cheek in the title role.

We know Venus also by her Greek name of Aphrodite, and the *Aphrodite* of George Chadwick was inspired by a sculpture of the goddess that found its way to Boston where Chadwick lived. He imagined the scenes that might have progressed past those sightless eyes, and this work joins a number of his pieces on mythological themes. We have heard Chadwick's music on a previous show; he is one of the strongest of an earlier generation of American symphonists who made the world realize that this country was producing something that could stand on its own.

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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](#).