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# Discoveries from the Fleisher Collection

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Saturday, June 5th, 2004, 5:00-6:00 p.m.

- [Jacobo Ficher](#) (1896-1978). *Serenata for Strings* (1947). Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia (formerly Concerto Soloists), without conductor. Live performance, February 1992. 16:50
- [Henry Hadley](#) (1871-1937). *The Ocean* (1921). Ukrainian National Symphony Orchestra, John McLaughlin Williams. Naxos 8559064. 14:26
- Interview with [Miguel Ficher](#)

Jacobo Ficher was born in the Ukraine and studied violin with Auer and composing with Tchernin, among others, at the St. Petersburg Conservatory. He turned down a prestigious concertmaster's position to leave Russia in 1919, ending up in Argentina, where he became one of the leading composers of that country. He helped to found the new music Grupo Renovación and the Argentinian Composers' League, and became a well respected professor and award-winning composer. His works display many influences, from his Jewish and Russian background, to the most modern European currents, to the folk music of his adopted country. In the four-movement *Serenata* for strings we can hear his love of counterpoint and dance. There is great energy and a singing quality that is in all of Ficher's work, to which this joyful *Serenata* can attest.

Jacobo's son Miguel Ficher, a longtime resident of Philadelphia, comes to our studios to speak about his father and the paths that took him to Argentina. It is both enlightening and enjoyable to listen to these stories, told by someone who is himself an expert in this field, one of the editors of *The Biographical Dictionary of Latin American Composers*, now in its second edition.

An American composer who was one of the first to study mostly in America, but who nevertheless travelled across the Atlantic in the opposite direction from Ficher to drink from the deep well of European influences, Henry Hadley is represented on our program by a marvelously romantic and evocative work, *The Ocean*. Hadley, like Ficher, helped many younger composers in his lifetime, was extremely active, and known also as a fine conductor. *The Ocean* is not merely descriptive, but is an emotional journey taken by a composer in full possession of the craft of writing.

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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](#).