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Discoveries from the Fleisher Collection

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Saturday, September 4th, 2004, 5:00-6:00 p.m.

- [Dudley Buck](#) (1839-1909). Festival Overture on the American National Air, The Star Spangled Banner (c.1879). London Symphony Orchestra, Kenneth Klein. [Albany 235](#). 7:00
- [Raoul Pleskow](#) (b.1931). Consort for String Quartet (1988). Meridian String Quartet. Capstone CPS-8716. 13:07
- [Adolph Weiss](#) (1891-1971). American Life (1929). Los Angeles Philharmonic, Lawrence Foster. New World Records 80228-2. 5:07
- Interview with Raoul Pleskow and Marshall Taylor

A new broadcasting year, a holiday weekend, and the end of the Olympics remind us of American themes. In particular, the U.S. National Anthem played at the medal ceremonies has raised discussions about arrangements of the music. The tune itself, “To Anacreon in Heaven,” is of course borrowed from the English, and as the accompaniment to Francis Scott Key’s words it has been arranged countless times. It so happens that the single most popular title circulating from the Fleisher Collection is Dudley Buck’s *Festival Overture*, which is a fantasia based on this tune. Conductors will often program it on Independence Day and other occasions as a concert-opener, where the conductor can turn around near the end of the piece, face the audience, motion for them to stand, and lead them in the singing of it.

One obvious and uniquely beneficial aspect of music in the States is not only the tunes that have come here from other countries, but the composers themselves who have made this their home. One such is Raoul Pleskow, who came to New York as a child from Czechoslovakia, and has become a well respected voice in music, being often performed and recorded. Fleisher has his *Consort for String Orchestra* among other works, and today we hear the string quartet version of the *Consort*. We also speak to Raoul and saxophonist Marshall Taylor, who are collaborating in area concerts next week, including one on September 14th in Center City, at the Trinity Center for Urban Life.

We end with a short work by Adolph Weiss, a first-generation German-American, born in Baltimore (home of the Star-Spangled Banner itself!), and the first American to study with Arnold Schoenberg. Like Pleskow, he masters theoretical discipline to craft an individual voice, and the work we hear today is about as jazzy and non-academic-sounding as they come. The subtitle, indeed, is “Scherzoso jazzoso,” and it sounds like a harbinger of be-bop, but whatever we make of its fun and rhythmic personality, it represents a big part, musically speaking, of what we might call *American Life*!

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](#).