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Discoveries from the Fleisher Collection

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Saturday, October 16th, 2004, 5:00-6:00 p.m.

- [Frederick Shepherd Converse](#) (1871-1940). Rhapsody for Clarinet and Orchestra (1938). Robert Alemany, Czech National Symphony Orchestra, JoAnn Falletta. Albany, [Troy 502](#). 6:48
- [Lee Hoiby](#) (b.1926). Piano Concerto No. 1 (1954, rev. 1980). John Atkins, Polish Radio Orchestra, Jan Krenz. Citadel, CTD 88118. 25:02
- Interview with Lee Hoiby and Elliot Shelkrot, President and Director of the Free Library of Philadelphia

We have as our guest in the studio the President and Director of the Free Library of Philadelphia, Elliot Shelkrot. Elliot talks to us about the important building project going on at the Central Library, where the Fleisher Collection has been housed since 1929. The Free Library is unique among urban libraries in that, when it addressed the challenge of aging buildings, it decided to work on the branches first. This was a boon to the many people in the city's neighborhoods who use the Library on a daily basis. Now it's Central's turn, and Elliot and the Board have selected renowned architect Moishe Safdie, who is planning a stunning expansion of the flagship building of the Free Library.

Since Elliot has admitted to us that he played clarinet as a student, we'll take the opportunity to listen to the *Rhapsody for Clarinet and Orchestra* of Frederick Shepherd Converse, which as it happens is on Volume 2 of our Albany series, Music from the Fleisher Collection. Converse was the first American to have an opera performed at the Metropolitan Opera House (*Pipe of Desire*), composed *Flivver Ten Million*, and was dean of the faculty of the New England Conservatory of Music.

Lee Hoiby joins us by phone, and talks to us about composing in general, and specifically about his *Piano Concerto No. 1*, which he wrote just after graduating from the Curtis Institute, and then revised in 1980. Hoiby's works span the many genres of orchestral and chamber music, and his music shows an unflagging love of melody. So it is no surprise that in his many operas and art songs—so many of which are performed countless times in concert halls and universities around the world—he is a national treasure, an American original with few peers. This early concerto reveals his natural lyricism and strong harmonic sense.

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](#).