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Saturday, July 2nd, 2005, 5:00-6:00 p.m.

- [Jeremy Beck](#) (b.1960). "Revels" from State of the Union (1992). Slovak Radio Orchestra, Kirk Trevor. Innova 612. 2:52
- Beck. Sinfonietta for String Orchestra (2000). Slovak, Trevor. Innova 612. 16:46
- [George Chadwick](#) (1854-1931). Tam O'Shanter (1915). Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Neeme Järvi. Chandos 10032. 19:39
- Interview with Jeremy Beck

On this 4th of July weekend, two American composers provide us with various views into a definition of what music is in this country. George Chadwick is now widely regarded as one of the foremost American composers from the time period spanning the 19th and 20th centuries, although use of the word "now" may be misleading. Musicians at the time also considered him one of our best composers, and after a period of neglect his reputation is once again well established. *Tam O'Shanter* is a strong example of his gifts, following the once well known Robert Burns poem closely. Telling the story of the rowdy Tam, Burns warns us—and Chadwick parallels this with color and humor—what can happen when we enjoy the company of "John Barleycorn" to excess ("What dangers thou canst make us scorn!"), which falsely emboldens us to tempt fate. Only the speed of Tam's horse saves him from the clutches of a gang of witches. Even at that, his horse loses a tail in the process, leaving us to "Remember Tam o' Shanter's mare" if ever we're inclined to mock good advice!

While Chadwick started out as a self-taught composer, rejecting his father's wishes to join the business world, he later studied in Germany and ended up in the forefront of Boston culture, leading the New England Conservatory for many years. Jeremy Beck, interestingly, studied at Yale, Duke, and Mannes with Lukas Foss, Jacob Druckman, and others, but after years of teaching, including tenured professorships at California State University and the University of Northern Iowa, has left musical academia altogether for a career in law. He continues to compose, and his CD "Wave" has just been released to very positive reviews.

Samuel Adler encapsulates for us some reasons for Jeremy's success, saying that his "work is full of vitality, optimism and beauty. He has a compositional technique which permits him to express his musical thoughts clearly and in a way which is instantly communicative. Each work...gives the listener the feeling that Beck is a composer whose music is accessible without compromising musical standards." The two works opening our program show why this is so. *Revels* is a delightful, satirical dance for orchestra, and the *Sinfonietta* is a major foray into the world of string writing, at once atmospheric and vigorously shaped. Beck's music affords an optimistic look at one part of a definition, at least, of American music at the turn of a new century.

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](#).