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Saturday, December 3rd, 2005, 5:00-6:00 p.m.

- [Gardner Read](#) (1913-2005). *De Profundis*, Op. 71 (1946), 10:20. Christian Lindberg, trombone, Gunnar Idenstam, organ. BIS-CD-488
- [Ann Wyeth McCoy](#) (1915-2005). *Maine Summer* (1957), 4:43
- McCoy. *In Memoriam* (1947), 7:22
- McCoy. *Suite for Children* (1945-50), 8:37
- McCoy. *Christmas Fantasy* (1934), 4:47. Kennett Symphony Orchestra, Mary Woodmansee Green. Live recording, 22 June 1998

On the same day, November 10th, 2005, we lost two American composers, the names of whom some will know not necessarily for their music. Ann Wyeth McCoy was from the famous Wyeth family of artists, and was herself a painter as well as composer. Gardner Read, a much performed composer, is nevertheless known by many music students as the author of standard texts on instruments and notation.

Read's *Music Notation: A Manual of Modern Practice* was the indispensable handbook for composers who wanted to improve their skill in placing notes on paper. Published in the time when composers notated by hand, it is still a sought-after authority in this age of computer-generated printing. His writings on orchestral and instrumental techniques likewise are ingenious and comprehensive sources for the composer who desires clarity and professionalism in translating musical thoughts into sound. His compositions in many genres are admired by many in the field as models of precision, lucidity, and variety. The musicologist Nicolas Slonimsky wrote: "Gardner Read is synonymous with the best traditions of modern classicism and inspired romanticism. His music possesses an aura of artistic dignity and the power of direct communication to the listener." Today, to memorialize his passing, we listen to the moving *De Profundis*, or "Out of the Depths I Cry to Thee, O Lord" (Psalm 130:1), for trombone and organ, which Read dedicated to the organist E. Power Biggs.

In 1935 Ann Wyeth married John W. McCoy II, a painter and former student of her father, N.C. Wyeth (1882-1945), the famous illustrator for the classic novels of Robert Louis Stevenson, James Fenimore Cooper, and Sir Walter Scott. But only the year before, her *Christmas Fantasy* was premiered by the Philadelphia Orchestra under Leopold Stokowski. She studied composition at the University of Pennsylvania with Harl McDonald (who later became the General Manager of the Philadelphia Orchestra). She wrote the four works here originally for piano, later orchestrating them for performances. *Maine Summer* reflects the family's yearly vacations, *In Memoriam* remembers her father, and parts of *Suite for Children* pay homage to her father and two others who grew up to become famous artists: her brother Andrew, and his son Jamie.

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](#).