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# Discoveries from the Fleisher Collection

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Saturday, March 4th, 2006, 5:00-6:00 p.m.

- [Jerzy Gablenz](#) (1888-1937). Piano Concerto in D-flat (1926), first movement, 24:00. Joseph Stempel, Cracow Radio and Television Orchestra, Simon Kawalla
- Gablenz. Symphonic Variations (1936), Introduction, Variation 10, 8:51. Dominican Republic National Symphony Orchestra, Teatro Nacional, Rafael Villanueva. Live performance
- Interview with Thomas Gablenz, George Gablenz

A few months ago we listened to *The Pilgrim* of Jerzy Gablenz, the Polish composer who tragically died in an airplane accident in 1937. His son Thomas and grandson George visit the WRTI studios from their home in Canada to bring more music and stories about this wonderful composer who left behind such strong and romantic works.

Jerzy Gablenz studied composition with the renowned Polish composers Zelenski and Nowowiejski, but his parents insisted that he take up the study of law. He eventually worked for his father's vinegar and mustard business, and upon his father's death found himself the busy president of a factory with hardly any time for his first love, composition. Nevertheless, he managed to write over 70 songs, about a dozen orchestral works, and a successful opera, *The Bewitched Circle*, in the time left to him. His music is solidly in the romantic tradition, with an emphasis on melodic flight, formal clarity, and attention to detail in orchestration. His is a voice that remains fresh today.

His son Thomas, a musician himself who has expertly recopied much of his father's music, recounts fascinating aspects of Jerzy's life, including his struggles in the music and business worlds. Thomas' life is interesting in itself. He escaped the German advance through Poland in 1939 and fought after D-Day with the reconstituted Polish Army from its new base in England. He spent his time until his retirement from the mining business in South America and the Caribbean promoting his father's music, which he continues to this day. Thomas and his son George (English for Jerzy) have provided the Fleisher Collection with this beautiful and original music, where we hope that his legacy will expand to new audiences.

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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](#).