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Discoveries from the Fleisher Collection

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Saturday, June 2nd, 2007, 5:00-6:00 p.m.

- [Wilhelm Bernhard Molique](#) (1802-1869). Flute Concerto in D minor, op. 69. Mathieu Dufour, Czech National Symphony, Paul Freeman. Cedille 80. 22:05
- [Louis Gesensway](#) (1906-1976). Flute Concerto (1945). William Kincaid, Philadelphia Orchestra, Eugene Ormandy. NFA1. 25:36

This month we listen to two flute concertos by composers who were violinists. Wilhelm Bernhard Molique was a German with a French name living in England when he wrote his concerto, and a hundred years later Louis Gesensway was a violinist in the Philadelphia Orchestra by way of Latvia and Canada, writing his concerto for his colleague William Kincaid.

Molique was born in Nuremberg and died in Canstatt near Stuttgart, but in between he traveled most of Europe. His musician father taught and encouraged him early on, and when Ludwig Spohr passed through his hometown and gave him some composition lessons, his path was assured. He studied in Munich and Vienna, but it was his excellence on the violin that gave him entrée into the musical world. The 15-year-old gave a successful recital in Vienna, and nine years later was Music Director and Concertmaster of the Stuttgart Orchestra, molding it into so fine an ensemble as to be lauded by the praise-stingy Hector Berlioz. Continuing to concertize as far away as Russia, he settled in London in 1849, where he wrote today's *Flute Concerto*. He taught composition at the Royal Academy of Music and retired to Germany in 1866. He excelled as a teacher and chamber musician, and a number of his compositions had such enthusiastic advocates as Joseph Joachim and Hans von Bülow.

We already acquainted ourselves with Gesensway in our December 2006 program, when we listened to his *Four Squares of Philadelphia*. He was born in Latvia, moved as a youngster to Canada, and then studied at the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia. He joined the Philadelphia Orchestra in 1925, later studying composition with Zoltán Kodály in Budapest. Back with the Philadelphians and composing, often for his colleagues, he wrote this *Flute Concerto* for William Kincaid, Principal Flute in the Philadelphia Orchestra from 1921 to 1960. It's a lovely and colorful work, with exquisite writing for both soloist and orchestra.

Here, then, two violinist-composers separated by about a century show us two ways to write a flute concerto, on *Discoveries from the Fleisher Collection*.

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](#).