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Discoveries from the Fleisher Collection

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Saturday, August 7th, 2004, 5:00-6:00 p.m.

- [William Henry Fry](#) (1813-1864). *The Breaking Heart* (1853). Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Tony Rowe. Naxos 8.559057. 10:48
- Dean Rishel (b.1946). *Requiem for the Children*, "All the Pretty Little Horses" (1996), excerpts. Greeley Chorale, Greeley Children's Chorale, Carl Gerbrandt. Live recording. 21:33
- Interview with Dean Rishel

We've gotten to be quite familiar with the music of William Henry Fry over the last two years on *Discoveries from the Fleisher Collection*, and we're proud to have his orchestral music here. He is America's first native-born symphonist and the composer of America's first grand opera. *The Breaking Heart* is a charming little example of American Victorian-era melodrama. There's no story behind this work that we know of, but we can imagine wistful glances, longing sighs, and love unrequited. Fry's lifelong admiration for Italian opera shines through every aspect of the singing, pliant melodies.

Turning from fiction, our next work attempts to address the real-life tragedy of the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing. The composer, teacher, and conductor Dean Rishel decided to write the *Requiem for the Children* in the aftermath of the horrible news in memory of the children who perished there. He intersperses and combines the Latin Requiem text with children's poems, creating a synthesis of musical styles that is remarkable in its power. Folk tunes run in and out among the more traditionally "classical" sections, and the children's choir comments as if from afar on the liturgical language of the adult choir. The effect is a focussed one, however, and moving. Dean talks to us about his composing, his career in elementary education, and his feelings behind the writing of this *Requiem*.

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](#).