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## Discoveries from the Fleisher Collection

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**Saturday, September 6th, 2014, 5:00-6:00 p.m.**

Philadelphia Premieres: Four Composers, Three Countries

**Anatol Lyadov** (1855-1914). [\*Ballade \(From Olden Times\)\*](#) (1889)

**Ernest Chausson** (1855-1899). [\*Two Dances from The Tempest\*](#) (1888)

**Gabriel Pierné** (1863-1937). [\*Ramuntcho, Suite No. 2\*](#) (1907)

**Joaquín Turina** (1882-1949). [\*Danzas fantásticas\*](#) (1920)



*Miranda—The Tempest* (1916), John William Waterhouse

We continue to admire the scope of the Fleisher Collection, with a look at four more works premiered in Philadelphia by the Symphony Club, founded in 1909 by Edwin A. Fleisher. He had traveled throughout Europe to collect all the orchestral scores and parts possible to obtain for his collection, now housed in the Free Library of Philadelphia. A trip for us through three countries provides a good taste.

Anatol Lyadov from Russia and Ernest Chausson from France were both born in 1855 and the works we'll hear today were composed within a year of each other. In the *Ballade (From Olden Times)*, which Lyadov composed originally for solo piano, he addressed what many other composers were addressing in Russia: music that was specifically, undeniably Russian. Nationalism can have a negative connotation, but the impulse is innocence itself, being the search for your own origin. In

music this translates into the search for a folk language unsullied by commercialism and unaffected by outside influences. This going back to go forward, this building of a musical personality on a foundation in your own soil, is musical nationalism, and is heard to warm effect in Lyadov. He orchestrated the *Ballade* in 1906.

There's no denying the Frenchness of Chausson, yet he turned for inspiration to that most English of authors—and ironically, the most international—Shakespeare. We've looked at The Bard in the Fleisher Collection through [Hamlet](#), [Falstaff](#), [Macbeth](#), and others; this time it's Chausson's incidental music *Two Dances from The Tempest*.

Staying in France but turning to Gabriel Pierné, we find an unexpected connection. There is not a lot of Pierné orchestral music, so this is a good opportunity to meet him through *Ramuntcho*, also composed for a play. It is filled with the exotic sounds of the Basque region as the smuggler Ramuntcho, in between forays into Spain, loves, and loses, Gracieuse. The play was a success in large part because of Pierné's music.

He was also a widely regarded organist, being César Franck's student and successor at the Saint Clotilde Basilica in Paris. As a conductor he led the premiere of Stravinsky's groundbreaking *Firebird* ballet. So what is the surprise? That conducting job had earlier been offered to, and turned down by, Anatol Lyadov.

We'll end this journey with our own excursion into Spain, and Joaquín Turina's *Danzas Fantásticas*. As Lyadov and many other composers have done, Turina wrote this work first for piano, and orchestrated it later. He lived in Paris himself for a while, studying with Vincent d'Indy and getting to know Debussy and Ravel. Back in Spain, he composed among other works these dances, operas, and music for guitarist Andrés Segovia.

The sound of Spain is as marked in Turina as is France's and Russia's in our other composers today. Edwin Fleisher reveled in collecting as much orchestral music from as many countries as he could, and it would be at his Symphony Club concerts that these works were first heard in Philadelphia.

Hosted by [Kile Smith](#), former 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, at the Parkway Central Library of 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](#). (215) 686-5313, [fleisher@freelibrary.org](mailto:fleisher@freelibrary.org).