

THE A. W. MELLON CONCERTS

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

Washington, D. C.

593rd Concert

Sunday, March 20, 1955

8:00 P. M.

In The East Garden Court

\*A Program of Compositions by LOUIS GESENSWAY played by  
members of THE PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA

Flute - Robert Cole

Clarinet - Anthony M. Gigliotti

Timpani - Fred D. Hinger

Percussion - Michael Bookspan

Violin - David Madison and Louis Gesensway

Viola - Carlton Cooley

Cello - Francis de Pasquale

-----  
1. Quartet, for Clarinet, Violin, Viola, and Cello (1950)

Allegro moderato, ben marcato

Lento

Vivace

Andante, quasi lento

2. Duo, for Flute and Violin (1952)

Allegro giocoso

Poco lento

Moderato assai

I N T E R M I S S I O N

3. Eight Miniatures for Solo Flute and Percussion (1949)

Lento, molto sostenuto

Allegro gracioso

Largo

Allegro molto

Allegro moderato

Andante sostenuto

Allegro scherzando

Allegro vivace, meno mosso, Tempo I

\*First performances.

This concert is broadcast by Station WGMS  
and The Good Music Network.

Louis Gesensway: Born in Latvia, February 19, 1906, now living in Philadelphia.

Mr. Gesensway's family moved from the country of his birth to Toronto when he was seven years old. From the age of ten, he toured Canada as a violin prodigy. Later, he was one of the founders of the Toronto Symphony and served as its assistant leader. After recitals and appearances as soloist with the Toronto orchestra, he joined the Philadelphia Orchestra in 1926 at the age of eighteen. Mr. Gesensway studied composition at the Curtis Institute and abroad, and in 1944 presented his theory of Color Harmony, which he had developed by expanding or contracting the diatonic scales into forty subdivisions, in an all-Gesensway chamber music concert in the Academy of Music in Philadelphia. The Philadelphia Orchestra, under Eugene Ormandy, gave the world premieres of his "Suite for Strings and Percussion" in 1945, his "Concerto for Flute and Orchestra" in 1946, and his tone poem, "Four Squares of Philadelphia" during February 1955. Another composition, "Double Portrait", commissioned by Dmitri Mitropoulos, was performed by the Philharmonic-Symphony Society of New York in 1952.

Compositions by Louis Gesensway have been heard during past seasons at the National Gallery of Art.

QUARTET FOR CLARINET AND STRINGS (1950) - This composition was started during the Philadelphia Orchestra tour of England in 1949 and was finished in this country. It has four movements, the first of which is in strict Sonata form. The sonorities and timbres take advantage of enharmonic changes in color harmony. The second is a Largo movement with a fugal development for a middle section. The third, or Scherzo movement, exploits the use of new rhythmic permutations of 7/8 and 9/8 rhythms. The last movement is a Passacaglia with a theme and eighteen variations.

DUO FOR VIOLIN AND FLUTE (1952) - This composition also starts with the Sonata form, has a slow second movement, and a light rondo for the last movement. In this work the instruments are treated independently and the harmonies are completely instrumental.

EIGHT MINIATURES FOR SOLO FLUTE AND PERCUSSION (1949)- The Miniatures, written in 1949, are definitely mood pictures, contrasting in rhythm and tempo, and fully exploiting the technical possibilities of the flute and the percussion instruments. In each Miniature, the flute and tympani combine with a different percussion instrument.