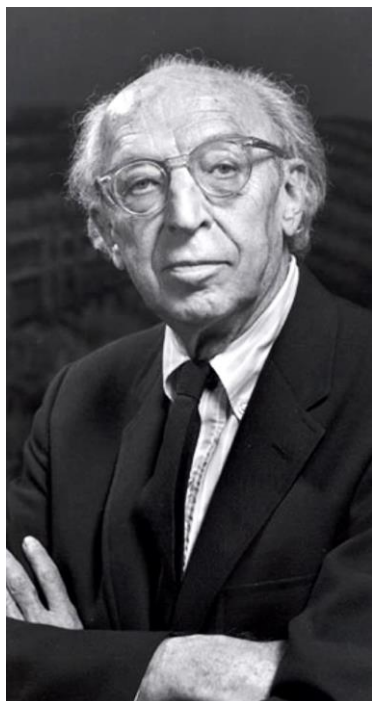




Composer Portfolios

COPLAND



Name	Aaron Copland
Nationality	American
Born-Died	1900-1990
Quote	<p><i>To stop the flow of music would be like the stopping of time itself, incredible and inconceivable.</i></p> <p><i>So long as the human spirit thrives on this planet, music in some living form will accompany and sustain it and give it expressive meaning.</i></p>

Interesting Stories

Why he composed

"If forced to explain the creative musician's basic objective in elementary terms, I would say that a composer writes music to express and communicate and put down in permanent form certain thoughts, emotions and states of being. The resultant work of art should speak to the men and women of the artist's own time with a directness and immediacy of communicative power that no previous art expression can give."

Composing

"Copland's method of composing was to write down fragments of musical ideas as they came to him. When he needed a piece, he would turn to these ideas...if one or more of these nuggets looked promising, he would then write a piano sketch and eventually work on them at the keyboard...The piano was so integral to his composing that it was spread throughout his compositional style, not only in the frequent use in the instrument but in more subtle and complex ways.": Vivian Perlis, Copland's Biographer.

Facts

- Aaron Copland was born on November 14 1900 in Brooklyn, New York.
- He had four siblings and came from a conservative Jewish family of Lithuanian origins.
- Copland had his first piano lessons from his older sister Laurine. She supported his through his music education and career.
- Copland wrote his first song at the age of 8.
- Copland took lessons in harmony, theory and composition from Rubin Goldmark. He later went and studied in Paris.
- Copland composed a total of about 100 works.
- Copland died December 2nd, 1990 from Pneumonia.

Copland's Music

Now we know more about the man, why not listen to some of his music!

- Fanfare for the Common Man
- Rodeo
- Appalachian Spring
- Clarinet Concerto
- Twelve Poems of Emily Dickinson
- The Tender Land
- Billy the Kid