



Composer: Aaron Copland

Title of composition: Symphony No. 3

Date of composition: Composed between 1944 and 1946

In the 1940's, American composers were searching for the "Great American Symphony" – a work that would portray a nation's grand emotional expression about a post-war world. Copland's jubilant four-movement work fit the bill. Composed for Serge Koussevitzky and the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Copland's Symphony No. 3 was debuted in 1946 at the end of World War II. This triumphant work was a reflection of the U.S. at the time and often regarded as a musical monument. Copland borrows from himself by incorporating his triumphant *Fanfare for the Common Man* in the last movement of this grand work.

Potential activities to enrich student learning

1. Learn from the pros – discuss how your experience at the symphony has informed your understanding of the instrumental technique and musicianship being taught in the classroom. For example: evaluate the SLSO's ability to blend sound between sections and incorporate that skill into your classroom.
2. Discuss the historical events that occurred during the time Copland's Symphony No. 3 was being composed and how these events might have influenced the composer and his musical work (i.e. World War II).
3. Copland also composed *Fanfare for the Common Man* and *Lincoln Portrait* both written during World War II. Explore those works to enrich the understanding of Copland's musical language and how this historical event influenced his compositions.
4. Songs serve to unify groups of people and to move them to common action or help them express common emotions (i.e. national anthems). Explore pieces from other genres of music that were written as a reflection of our society's emotional state. In what ways are they similar and different to Copland's work?
5. Discuss with other departments in your school (i.e. social studies, English, visual arts, etc.) to create opportunities for cross-curricular learning opportunities.