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The American Stravinsky: The Style and Aesthetics of Copland's New American Music, the Early Works, 1921-1938

By Gayle Minetta Murchison



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One of the country's most enduringly successful composers, Aaron Copland created a distinctively American style and aesthetic in works for a diversity of genres and mediums, including ballet, opera, and film. Also active as a critic, mentor, advocate, and concert organizer, he played a decisive role in the growth of serious music in the Americas in the twentieth century.

In *The American Stravinsky*, Gayle Murchison closely analyzes selected works to discern the specific compositional techniques Copland used, and to understand the degree to which they derived from European models, particularly the influence of Igor Stravinsky. Murchison examines how Copland both Americanized these models and made them his own, thereby finding his own compositional voice. Murchison also discusses Copland's aesthetics of music and his ideas about its purpose and social function.



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Editorial Review

Review

"...Gayle Murchison has succeeded in redefining Copland and his music. Future scholarship should start here." -- Stephen Brown, *TLS-The Times Literary Supplement*

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(Stephen Brown *TLS* 2012-11-26)

About the Author

Gayle Murchison is Assistant Professor of Music and Black Studies at the College of William and Mary, and author of numerous articles on Aaron Copland, Mary Lou Williams, and William Grant Still, one of which won an ASCAP Deems Taylor Award.

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