

Copland Quotes:

Vivian Perlis – “He put American music on the map. He decided that there should be an American sound, a place for the American composer.”

Leonard Bernstein – “He was the composer who would lead American music out of the wilderness. He was THE LEADER, the one to whom the young always came with their compositions.”

William Schuman – “I think Aaron created the American sound in symphonic music. He believed in the validity of American music, and that we were not inferior to our European cousins.”

Aaron Copland – “No one ever talked music to me or took me to a concert. Music as an art was a discovery I made all by myself.”

“My music, even when it sounds tragic, is a confirmation of life. I would also like to think that my music enlarges the listener’s sphere of reference...That is one of the great things about art...that it does enlarge the sense of who you are and what life is all about.”

Samuel Adler – about their first lesson – “I remember him sitting down at the piano and playing a simple C-major chord. What’s that, Sam? He asked. “A C-major triad”, I said. “I know you’ve got good ears, Sam, but what does that mean to you? Well, I admitted, it doesn’t mean much. And that’s your problem, Sam—you’ve got to love every note!”

“Copland’s music is Mozartian to me, in that it’s simple without being simplistic. And it’s much more than folklore-based music; it’s very strong in the way that Bartok’s music is strong—it takes its inspiration from the people.”

Elliott Carter - Review of *Outdoor Overture* premiere – “Its opening is as lofty and beautiful as any passage that has been written by a contemporary. It is Copland in his ‘prophetic’ vein, a vein which runs through all of his work. Each new work of Copland only goes further to prove that he is one of the most important, original and inspiring figures in contemporary music either here or in Europe. But it is useless to expect the critics to hail him so, for they do not bother to hear or study his works.”