

APPALACHIAN SPRING was composed in 1943-44 as a ballet for Miss Martha Graham on a commission from the Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge Foundation. It was first performed by Miss Graham and her company at the Coolidge Festival in the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., on October 30th, 1944.

The original scoring called for a chamber ensemble of thirteen instruments (available in a separate miniature score: HPS-876). The present arrangement for symphony orchestra was made by the composer in the spring of 1945. It is a condensed version of the ballet, retaining all essential features but omitting those sections in which the interest is primarily choreographic.

The action of the ballet concerns "a pioneer celebration in spring around a newly-built farmhouse in the Pennsylvania hills in the early part of the last century. The bride-to-be and the young farmer-husband enact the emotions, joyful and apprehensive, their new domestic partnership invites. An older neighbor suggests now and then the rocky confidence of experience. A revivalist and his followers remind the new householders of the strange and terrible aspects of human fate. At the end the couple are left quiet and strong in their new house."

In 1945 APPALACHIAN SPRING received the Pulitzer Prize for music, as well as the award of the Music Critics Circle of New York for the outstanding theatrical work of the season of 1944-45.

INSTRUMENTATION:

- 2 Flutes
- 2 Oboes
- 2 Clarinets in A and B \flat
- 2 Bassoons
- 2 Horns in F
- 2 Trumpets in B \flat
- 2 Trombones
- Timpani
- Percussion:
 - Xylophone, Snare Drum, Bass Drum, Cymbals, Tabor (Long Drum), Wood Block, Claves, Glockenspiel, Triangle
- Harp
- Pianoforte
- Strings

Duration: ca. 20 minutes

APPALACHIAN SPRING

Ballet for Martha

Aaron Copland
(1943-1944)

Very slowly ($\text{♩} = 66$)

Solo

Faster ($\text{♩} = 88$)

1. 2 Flauti

II.

2 Oboi

Solo

2 Clarinetti in A

II.

p semplice ("white tone")

2 Fagotti

2 Corni in F

2 Trombe in B \flat

2 Tromboni

Percussion

Very slowly ($\text{♩} = 66$)

Faster ($\text{♩} = 88$)

Pianoforte

Arpa

(laissez vibrer)

mp

Very slowly ($\text{♩} = 66$)

HALF (div.)

p

Faster ($\text{♩} = 88$)

Violino I

HALF \vee

pp

p

HALF (div.)

Violino II

mp

HALF \vee

pp

p

HALF (div.)

Viola

mp

HALF \vee

pp

p

HALF (div.)

Violoncello

mp

HALF \vee

pp

p

Contrabasso

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HPS-82

Printed in U.S.A.