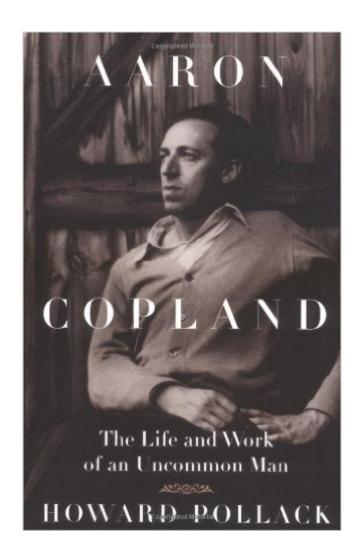
The book was found

Aaron Copland: THE LIFE AND WORK OF AN UNCOMMON MAN (Music In American Life)





Synopsis

Features the biography of Aaron Copland, his life, and his music.

Book Information

Series: Music in American Life

Paperback: 728 pages

Publisher: University of Illinois Press (March 8, 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0252069005

ISBN-13: 978-0252069000

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1.6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews (12 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,179,442 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #675 in Books > Arts &

Photography > Music > Theory, Composition & Performance > Composition #2476 in Books >

Textbooks > Humanities > Performing Arts > Music #4096 in Books > Arts & Photography >

Music > History & Criticism

Customer Reviews

As one who adores Copland's music, I found this comprehensive biography to be an incredibly difficult yet satisfying work. To fully appreciate it, one needs to be a serious musician. I am not and therefore found some of the passages needed rereading to at least glean something of what the author intended to convey. If you delve into this book, be prepared to reread and re-reread a number of passages and chapters if you want to learn as much as it has to offer. Many have commented on the disjointed order of the book. I agree, at first it was disconcerting. Many of the chapters are stand-alone essays that, especially in the first half of the book, require a certain knowledge of Copland and his works. But, as stated above, if one is patient and willing to reread the passages after the discussions of individual works that come later, it is understandable why the author chose this approach. For young students of 20th century American music, this is a treasure trove of information about the many composers who are more than obscure to casual listeners of this era of music. I found myself looking up many of the artists and expect it will keep me busy for years to learn more. Readers will get an incredible understanding of what Copland meant to his colleagues. His promotion and encouragment of their work shows a selfless side of Copland that only endears him more to those who love his music and influence. As a trivial side note, I was

particularly pleased that the author noted Keith Emerson's "respectfully arranged" interpretation of Fanfare for the Common Man. It was as a young high school student listening to Emerson, Lake & Palmer's version that introduced me to Copland in the first place (and Mussorgsky as well).

Howard Pollack has written a large, immensely-detailed, and very moving biography of a marvelous composer. Copland (1900-1990) was Jewish (Copland later wrote that his parents were "more traditional than religious, but observant"), and Pollack notes that "if Copland was discreet about his Jewish background, he never hid it either.... (T)hroughout his life, Copland spoke warmly of the Jewish traditions he had grown up with." Copland was not traditionally religious, however: "He occasionally referred to God ... but he apparently rejected the idea of a personal deity who intervened in human affairs." His funeral was, at his request, nonreligious. "Copland never joined a political party." He was nevertheless later compelled to testify at the McCarthy hearings "as a friendly but not particularly cooperative witness," who stated categorically, "I have not been a Communist in the past and I am not now a Communist." Pollack covers all of the necessary biographical details fully, such as Copland's studying advanced composition with Nadia Boulanger in Paris. Furthermore, "Boulanger's efforts on behalf of his career also earned his gratitude."Pollack's book is filled with insights into Copland and his music. "Copland composed primarily at the piano ... he felt somewhat defensive about this practice until he learned that Stravinsky did likewise." Copland was also influenced by jazz (he later wrote, "I was born in Brooklyn, and that in Brooklyn we used to hear jazz around all the time"), but after writing his Piano Concerto (1926), he "felt I had done all I could with the idiom." He notes that "to the end of his life, Copland named (Stravinsky) as his favorite twentieth century composer"; yet "Copland and Stravinsky maintained a rather cool friendship.

Download to continue reading...

Aaron Copland: THE LIFE AND WORK OF AN UNCOMMON MAN (Music in American Life) Aaron Copland: The Life and Work of an Uncommon Man Aaron Copland (Getting to Know the World's Greatest Composers) The Sewing Room and Other Essays: Uncommon Reflections on Life, Love, and Work Aaron and Alexander: The Most Famous Duel in American History Dog Man: An Uncommon Life on a Faraway Mountain The Last Hero: A Life of Henry Aaron Aaron Loves Apples and Pumpkins (Step into Reading) The Duel: The Parallel Lives of Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr The Idealist: Aaron Swartz and the Rise of Free Culture on the Internet The Priest: Aaron Aaron Has a Lazy Day (Step into Reading) Aaron is a Good Sport (Step into Reading) Aaron is Cool (Step into Reading) The Boy Who Could Change the World: The Writings of Aaron Swartz The A-Z

of Judge Dredd: The Complete Encyclopedia from Aaron Aardvark to Zachary Zziiz Aaron Curry: Bad Brain [(Predictable Revenue: Turn Your Business Into a Sales Machine with the \$100 Million Best Practices of Salesforce.com)] [Author: Aaron Ross] [Jul-2011] Michael Aaron Piano Course (Curso Para Piano): Primer (Spanish, English Language Edition) (Spanish Edition) Mel Bay Presents: Aaron Shearer: Learning the Classic Guitar, Part 2

<u>Dmca</u>