• Born and grew up in New York City.
• He had good music teachers there and got to hear lots of concerts.
• When he was 21, he went to Paris to study composition.
• When he returned to America at 24, he knew that he wanted to create music that sounded “American.”

• Many Americans feel that Copland did create music that sounded uniquely American.
• In addition to composing music, Copland also conducted, performed, and especially loved to teach.
• Copland received many honors and awards in his lifetime, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom.
• He composed 6 ballets, 1 band piece, 11 chamber works, 8 pieces for chorus, 2 operas, 31 works for orchestra, 1 organ piece, 19 piano pieces, 14 vocal pieces, 8 film scores and 1 television show.

Listen to "Rodeo" from Hoe Down. We think you'll recognize it!