

JANUARY 4, 2016



**BOULDER
PHILHARMONIC
ORCHESTRA**

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Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra Presents *Dance, American Style*, January 16, 2016

Continuing its season, *Reflections: The Spirit of Boulder*, the [Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra](http://www.boulderphil.org) presents *Dance, American Style* in collaboration with Boulder Ballet at CU's Macky Auditorium on Saturday, January 16, at 7:30 p.m.

East Coast meets West Coast in this celebration of Americana. First, William Schuman channels colonial-era composer William Billings in the haunting *New England Triptych*, and Leonard Bernstein embraces the cultural melting pot of New York City in his Symphonic Dances from *West Side Story*. After intermission, we hear Aaron Copland's take on the legendary outlaw Billy the Kid, and we see Copland's evocation of life in the rural West as Boulder Ballet presents original choreography for his iconic ballet, *Rodeo*.

William Billings is an important figure in American music, although not well known. Born in 1746, his works channel the rugged spirit, religious faith, and patriotic fervor of the Revolutionary War. It is fitting that Schuman chose to portray similar feelings in *New England Triptych* through the use of Billings' works.

West Side Story is a modern retelling of Shakespeare's classic work, *Romeo and Juliet*. The musical served as the grounds for one of the greatest collaborations in American music: composer Leonard Bernstein, playwright Arthur Laurents, and lyricist Stephen Sondheim, three titans of American music.

Aaron Copland's depiction of the notorious cowboy-killer, Billy the Kid, is a tribute to the romanticized American West. Originally a ballet, a suite containing the most recognizable moments of the ballet was published in 1940. Composed in seven episodes, the Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra will present three: *Prairie Night*, *Waltz*, and *Celebration Dance*.

To conclude the night, the Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra will collaborate with the Boulder Ballet to re-create another Copland masterpiece. Copland's second western ballet, *Rodeo*, was composed in 1942. At first, Copland was not interested in writing a second "cowboy ballet"; however, he was eventually convinced of its merits and created the piece using traditional western ballads and fiddle tunes. The Boulder Philharmonic's production of *Rodeo* will feature original choreography by Ana Claire, artistic director of Boulder Ballet.

Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra Concert: *Dance, American Style*
Saturday, January 16, 2016—7:30 p.m., Macky Auditorium, CU-Boulder

Pre-concert talk, 6:30 p.m., free to ticket-holders.

SCHUMAN—*New England Triptych*

BERNSTEIN—*Symphonic Dances* from *West Side Story*

COPLAND—*Prairie Night*, *Waltz* and *Celebration Dance* from *Billy the Kid*

COPLAND—*Rodeo: Ballet in One Act*

I. Buckaroo Holiday

II. Corral Nocturne

III. Ranch House Party

IV. Saturday Night Waltz

V. Hoedown

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Tickets: \$13-\$70 (\$5 for students) at www.BoulderPhil.org and 303-449-1343, ext. 2.

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