

8.559330

McKAY: Epoch: An American Dance Symphony

NAXOS

Playing  
Time:  
**62:52**

George Frederick  
**McKAY**  
(1899–1970)

**EPOCH**  
**An American Dance Symphony**  
(1935)

- |   |                       |       |
|---|-----------------------|-------|
| 1 | I. Symbolic Portrait  | 14:16 |
| 2 | II. Pastoral*         | 15:28 |
| 3 | III. Westward!        | 18:49 |
| 4 | IV. Machine Age Blues | 13:47 |

University of Kentucky  
Symphony Orchestra

\*University of Kentucky  
Women's Choir  
(Chorusmaster: Lori Hetzel)

John Nardolillo

**WORLD PREMIÈRE RECORDING**

A full synopsis will be found in the booklet  
Recorded at the Singletary Center for the Arts Concert Hall,  
Lexington, Kentucky, USA, 6–8 February 2007  
Producer & Engineer: Tim Handley  
Booklet notes: Fred McKay & Harrison McKay  
Publisher: GFM Publishing Co.  
Cover Image by Misa McKay Moore, inspired by Epoch  
collegial stage production of 1935.  
American flag, folk artist, 1880s

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AMERICAN CLASSICS

George Frederick McKay composed *Epoch*, which has lain forgotten for virtually seventy years, as 'An American Dance Symphony'. This new art form was to express in colourful music, costumes and dance scenes, utilizing the latest techniques in lighting and stagecraft, the spirit of four great American poets: Edgar Allan Poe, Sidney Lanier, Walt Whitman and Carl Sandburg, as well as the flow of history through romantic, pastoral, pioneering and industrial episodes. *Epoch* was first performed in 1935 during the Great Depression, with severe social-political turmoil brewing on many fronts, and McKay's music, like the 1927 silent movie *Metropolis*, warned of a dawning robotic and polluted modern industrial society, in contrast to a peaceful, natural existence. The lyrical *Pastoral* depicts idyllic nurturing hillsides, streams and bays, while *Machine Age Blues* expresses a dark prospective future, with explosive, sardonic mechanical fury.



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