



AMERICAN CLASSICS

Aaron Copland's little-known opera *The Tender Land* takes place on a farm in the American South during the Depression. The composer later wrote, "I was trying to give young American singers material that they do not often get in the opera house... The result was closer to musical comedy than grand opera." The suite that Copland extracted from *The Tender Land* is in three movements, with the second and third linked without pause. The 1926 *Piano Concerto*, like Gershwin's *Concerto* of the previous year, is a 1920s "New York" piece – brassy, exuberant, ever confident in its bluesy swagger. Copland composed two sets of *Old American Songs*, originally for voice and piano but heard here transcribed for chorus and orchestra.

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Aaron COPLAND

(1900-1990)

Playing
Time:
63:42

The Tender Land (Suite)

- 1 Introduction and Love Music
- 2 Party Scene
- 3 Finale: The Promise of Living

Piano Concerto*

- 4 Andante sostenuto
- 5 Molto moderato, Allegro assai

Old American Songs, Vol. 1†

- 6 The Boatmen's Song
- 7 The Dodger
- 8 Long Time Ago
- 9 Simple Gifts
- 10 I Bought Me a Cat

Old American Songs, Vol. 2†

- 11 The Little Horses
- 12 Zion's Walls
- 13 The Golden Willow Tree
- 14 At the River
- 15 Ching-a-ring Chaw

Benjamin Pasternack, Piano*

St Charles Singers†

Elgin Symphony Orchestra • Robert Hanson

A detailed track list can be found on page 2 of the booklet
Sung texts included

Recorded at Blizzard Theatre at the Arts Center, Elgin
Community College, Illinois, USA, on 8th and 9th May, 2007.

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20:39

10:11

4:56

5:32

16:54

7:11

9:44

12:46

3:25

2:24

3:03

1:30

2:23

13:23

2:53

2:03

3:40

3:04

1:44

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