



IN STEP WITH THE TIMES

Copland's ballet scores



AMERICAN CLASSICS



COPLAND

Billy the Kid
(Complete Ballet)

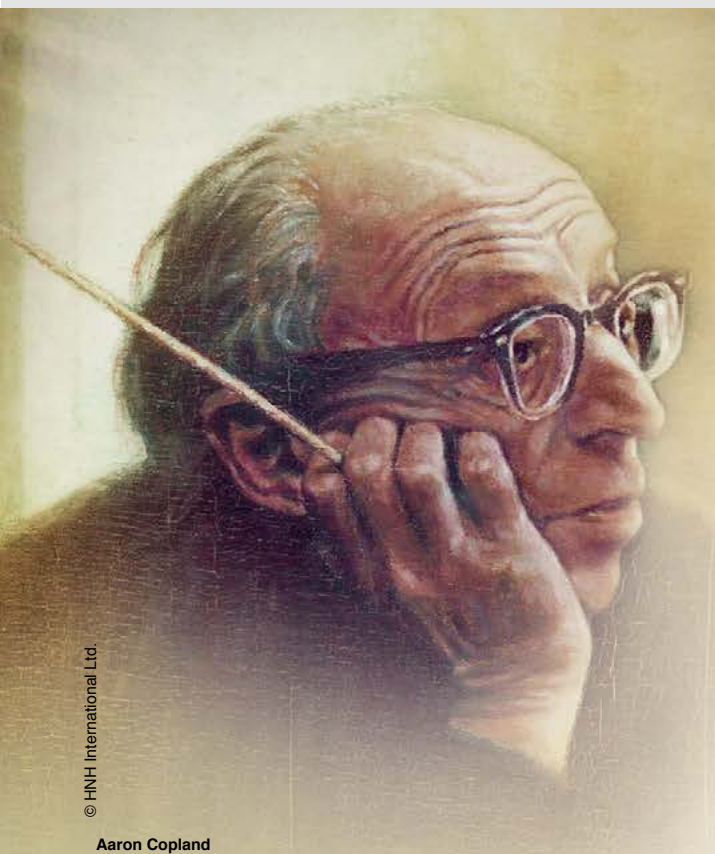
Grohg
(One-Act Ballet)

**Detroit Symphony
Orchestra**

Leonard Slatkin



© David Duchon-Doris



© HNH International Ltd.

Aaron Copland


AMERICAN CLASSICS


COPLAND

Billy the Kid
(Complete Ballet)

Grohg
(One-Act Ballet)

**Detroit Symphony
Orchestra**

Leonard Slatkin



8.559862
Price Code: NXPPlaying Time:
62:54

Aaron COPLAND (1900–1990)

Billy the Kid (Complete Ballet)

Grohg (One-Act Ballet)

Detroit Symphony Orchestra
Leonard Slatkin

[Listen to an excerpt from *Billy the Kid*](#)


Aaron Copland did as much as anyone in establishing American concert music on the world stage, and his ballet scores proved to be among his most important and influential works. *Grohg* is the most ambitious example of his Parisian years, a precociously brilliant one-act ballet scored for full orchestra, inspired by the silent expressionist film *Nosferatu*. The first example of Copland's new 'Americanized' music of the 1930s was *Billy the Kid*, based on the life of the 19th-century outlaw and heard here in its full version. This was the first fully fledged American ballet in style and content: brassy, syncopated, filmic and richly folk-flavored.

Key Features:

- This is the third instalment in Slatkin's cycle of Copland's ballet works with the Detroit Symphony. The first release is the complete recording of *Rodeo*, with *Dance Panels*, *El Salón México* and *Danzón Cubano*, available on 8.559758 (also released in Blu-ray Audio – NBD0037). It is a *MusicWeb International* 'Recording of the Year' (2013) and also received 5 stars from *Pizzicato*: 'Leonard Slatkin is a master when it comes to [creating] a real musical atmosphere ... magnificently played by the Detroit Symphony...'
- The second volume – *Appalachian Spring* and *Hear Ye! Hear Ye!* (8.559806) – was an *AllMusic.com* Editor's Choice: 'The Detroit Symphony Orchestra gives Slatkin emotionally appropriate performances of both works, emphasizing the gritty urban ambience in *Hear Ye! Hear Ye!* and the naive sweetness of *Appalachian Spring*, all the while communicating Copland's special style of Americana without caricature.'
- Leonard Slatkin and the DSO has also recorded Copland's *Third Symphony* (in its full version) and *Three Latin American Sketches* (8.559844). It received nominations in the 2017 GRAMMY® and International Classical Music Awards. It is also a *BBC Music Magazine* 'Orchestral Choice', and *American Record Guide* Critic's Choice: 'The Detroit performance is magnificent and will go to the top of many Copland *Third* lists. It is powerful and squared off in a good way, with inspired playing by the Detroit Symphony and sound to kill for.'

Two ballets that mark two beginnings for Copland make up the contents of this finale set of the composer's dance works. While under the tutelage of the great Nadia Boulanger, who advised him to find an 'American' voice for the concert hall, Copland was inspired by the film *Nosferatu* to create his vampire ballet, *Grogh*. It was not until the mid-1960s that the music was discovered in the Library of Congress, and we can now fully assess the early Copland, a visionary with wildly idiosyncratic ideas. This is a wonderful score that deserves many more hearings.

His Americana works began with *Billy the Kid* in 1938. Copland had now turned to a more populist way of composing, without sacrificing his own personal style. The ballet was an immediate success and has remained in the concert hall via a suite, compiled by the composer. In the complete work we hear extended sections, including one with electric guitar. These add the needed material to understand musically how the outlaw is finally done in.]

– Leonard Slatkin



© Nico Rodamel

About Leonard Slatkin

Internationally acclaimed conductor **Leonard Slatkin** is Music Director Laureate of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra (DSO) and Directeur Musical Honoraire of the Orchestre National de Lyon (ONL). He maintains a rigorous schedule of guest conducting throughout the world and is active as a composer, author, and educator. Highlights of the 2018–19 season include a tour of Germany with the ONL, a three-week American Festival with the DSO, the Kastalsky *Requiem* project commemorating the World War I Centennial, Penderecki's 85th birthday celebration in Warsaw, five weeks in Asia leading orchestras in Guangzhou, Beijing, Osaka, Shanghai, and Hong Kong, and the Manhattan School of Music's 100th anniversary gala concert at Carnegie Hall. Slatkin has received six GRAMMY® Awards and 33 nominations. His recent Naxos recordings include works by Saint-Saëns, Ravel, and Berlioz (with the ONL) and music by Copland, Rachmaninov, Borzova, McTee, and John Williams (with the DSO).

See Leonard Slatkin's discography on Naxos.com (https://www.naxos.com/person/Leonard_Slatkin/32041.htm).

About the Detroit Symphony Orchestra

The **Detroit Symphony Orchestra** (DSO) is known for trailblazing performances, collaborations with internationally renowned artists, and a deep connection to its city. Conductor Leonard Slatkin, who recently concluded a decade-long tenure at the helm, now serves as the DSO's Music Director Laureate, endowed by The Kresge Foundation. Situated at the historic Orchestra Hall within the Max M. and Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center, the DSO offers a varied performance schedule, as well as the William Davidson Neighborhood Concert Series, and a robust schedule of eclectic multi-genre performances in its midsize venue The Cube, constructed and curated with support from Peter D. and Julie F. Cummings.



© Cybelle Codish

Highly acclaimed recordings featuring Leonard Slatkin and the DSO



8.559758 • NBD0037 [Blu-ray Audio]

'All are extremely well-played by Slatkin and his friends from Detroit.'
– *Playbill*



8.559806

'Slatkin's new interpretation is vigorous and communicative, and the playing is distinguished too.'
– *Gramophone*



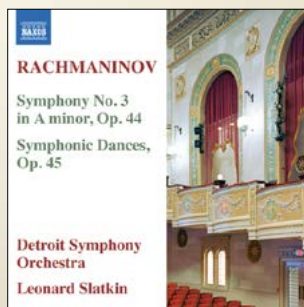
8.559844

'[Slatkin] delivers a powerful (the brass!), thrilling, extroverted, yet poetic account that can join the ranks of the very best.'
– *Fanfare*



8.559765

'The DSO does a great job exploring these unique pieces.'
– *Cinemusical* ★★★★★



8.573051

'The Detroit Symphony plays the music about as beautifully as it can be done.'
– *ClassicsToday.com*



8.559706

'A truly different musical experience deserving of high praise.'
– *MusicWeb International*



For the full list of titles from the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, please visit www.naxos.com/person/Detroit_Symphony_Orchestra/35172.htm.