# "RODEO" BY AARON COPLAND COMPANION PACKAGE

"Rodeo" is a ballet composed by Aaron Copland and choreographed by Agnes de Mille, it premiered in 1942. Many traditional and American folk songs can be heard throughout the whole work.

The ballet follows the story of the Cowgirl who is hoping to win the affections of the Head Wrangler, but is unwilling to subscribe to traditional gender roles to do so. Listen for the Rodeo theme that returns again and again. It sounds like horses trotting!

#### **Episode 1- Buckaroo Holiday**

Opening with a grand fanfare, the woodwinds then introduce the Cowgirl's theme. The lone Cowgirl seeks the affections of the Head Wrangler, but he is interested in the more feminine Rancher's Daughter.

The Cowgirl mimics the surrounding cowboys.

#### **Episode 2- Corral Nocturne**

The Cowgirl is lovesick and thinking about the Head Wrangler outside in the empty corrals, which Copland portrays through the oboe and bassoon. A brief snippet of some wild party music can be heard from inside the ranch house, but outside the Cowgirl stays outside.

#### **Episode 3- Saturday Night Waltz**

The cowboys and their girls pair off, but the Cowgirl is left alone until the Champion Roper approaches her, having lost the Rancher's Daughter to the Head Wrangler.

#### Episode 4- Hoe-Down

Hoe-Down opens with the fold tune "Bonaparte's Retreat" with the strings playing the theme, echoed by the horns. "Miss McLeod's Reel" is then introduced, followed by "the Irish theme "Gilderoy" with the clarinet and oboe. The Rodeo theme comes back as the Cowgirl and the Roper share their kiss, and the piece ends with a grand fanfare.

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### **MATCH-UP**

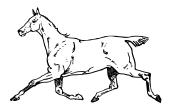
"Rodeo" is programme music- music that expresses the story and character by sound instead of words. Match up each character and part with it's instrument!



THE COWGIRL



HONKY-TONK PIANO



**HORSES** 





**WILD PARTY** 

**OBOE AND BASSOON** 



**WOOD BLOCK** 



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## "RODEO" WORDSEARCH

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AARON COPLAND
BALLET
BASSOON
BRASS
BUCKAROO
CORRAL
COWBOY

COWGIRL
DRUMS
FANFARE
FOLK SONG
HOE DOWN
OBOE
ORCHESTRA

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RANCH RODEO STRINGS WILD WEST WOODWINDS WRANGLER

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