

26 OCTOBER 2006; 21M.262: THOMSON

- I. Unit Test
- II. Piano Variations/Copland Wrap-up
- III. Virgil Thomson
  1. America after WWI: the Émigré community
    - a. The Lost Generation
      - i. Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Tolkas, Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ezra Pound, Sherwood Anderson, T.S. Eliot, Virgil Thomson. (Antheil?)
    - b. Nadia Boulanger (1887–1979): Composition Teacher
      - i. Sister of Lili Boulanger; gifted composer who died young.
      - ii. Students included Leonard Bernstein (1918–1990), Elliott Carter (b. 1908), Aaron Copland, Virgil Thomson, Philip Glass (b. 1937).
  2. Virgil Thomson (1896–1989) and Gertrude Stein (1874–1946)
    - a. *Four Saints in Three Acts* (Composed 1927–28; Premiere 1934)
      - i. How Many Saints Are There In It?
      - ii. (There are Very Many Saints in it)
    - b. **Discussion:** Musical (and Text) Style and Musical Development
      - i. A Rose is a rose is a rose is a rose
      - ii. Harmony? Counterpoint?
      - iii. Modernist composition or starkly reactionary?
    - c. Performances and Reception
      - i. African-American Cast. Reasons.
      - ii. Long run
      - iii. Seldom revived

**Next Class: The Continued Tonal Tradition I: Britten and Barber**

**Listening:**

Britten, *Peter Grimes*, Focus on fAct III

Score 1: **Mu B777 pet a** (orchestra)

Score 2: **Mu B777 pet pv** (piano vocal)

CD: **B777 pe a**

DVD: **B777 pe**

Barber, *Knoxville: Summer of 1915*

Score 1: **Mu B233 k**

Score 2: **Mu pts B233 vocmu ar** (reduction for piano)

CD: **Up7 Knox**

**Reading:**

Morgan, pp. 270–78 (includes Walton); optional: pp. 128–37 (earlier English composers, incl. Vaughn Williams and Holst)

**Optional:** Claire Seymour, *The Operas of Benjamin Britten* (Rochester, N.Y.: Boydell, 2004)

**ML410.B862.S49 2004**

**Optional:** Daniel Felsenfeld, *Britten and Barber: their lives and their music* (Pompton Plains, N.J.: Amadeus Press, 2005) **ML390.F348 2005** and **CD ML390.F348 2005**