

Lesson 7: Fanfare For the Common Man by Aaron Copland

About the piece: Fanfare for the Common Man was written by Copland in 1942. It was inspired by then Vice President's Henry A. Wallace's speech proclaiming the dawning century as "The Coming of the Common Man".

The piece was commissioned by The Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra as part of 9 fanfares designed to foster patriotic spirit during World War II in 1942. Of the 9 fanfares written by Copland, this one became the most popular, and was actually used by him in the final movement of his 3rd Symphony.

Hopefully you can convey to your children that this piece marked the beginning of a distinctive American orchestral style of music – a very open sounding music, where people can picture the beauty of America while listening.

[Listen to Fanfare For The Common Man on YouTube](#)

[Listen to another recording of Fanfare for the Common Man on YouTube with added content from Emerson, Lake, & Palmer](#) *(this version includes something extra at the end – this is good supplemental listening! Your children will love it. Use the first link, however, for the actual SQUILT lesson.)*

Dynamics: This piece runs the full spectrum of louds and softs. Many of the percussion instruments contribute to that change in dynamics – especially in the very beginning. Encourage your student to use the terminology they should know well by now!

Rhythm/Tempo: The actual tempo of this piece (as written) is "very deliberately". There are a few signature rhythms in this piece, too. Are the rhythms fast or slow? (mostly slow) Do you hear some repeated? (yes)



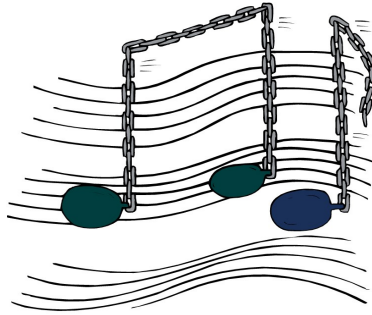
What is a Fanfare?

A fanfare is a short, ceremonial piece of music played by **brass** instruments – usually to introduce someone or something important.

Fanfare For The Common Man is a fanfare for exactly that – the American common man.

To learn more about the Brass Family, explore [this site](#), where you can click on different families and learn about them.

The Music of Aaron Copland



Aaron Copland's music is AMERICAN. Almost everything he has written is about a particular place or time period in America's history. Listen to these pieces and transport yourself to that place or time. **Which is your favorite?**

Simple Gifts - from Appalachian Spring

Hoedown - from Rodeo

Ching-a-Ring Chau

Learn more about Aaron Copland at [Making Music Fun](#).
Complete the notebooking page that follows.

Aaron Copland

(1900-1990)

