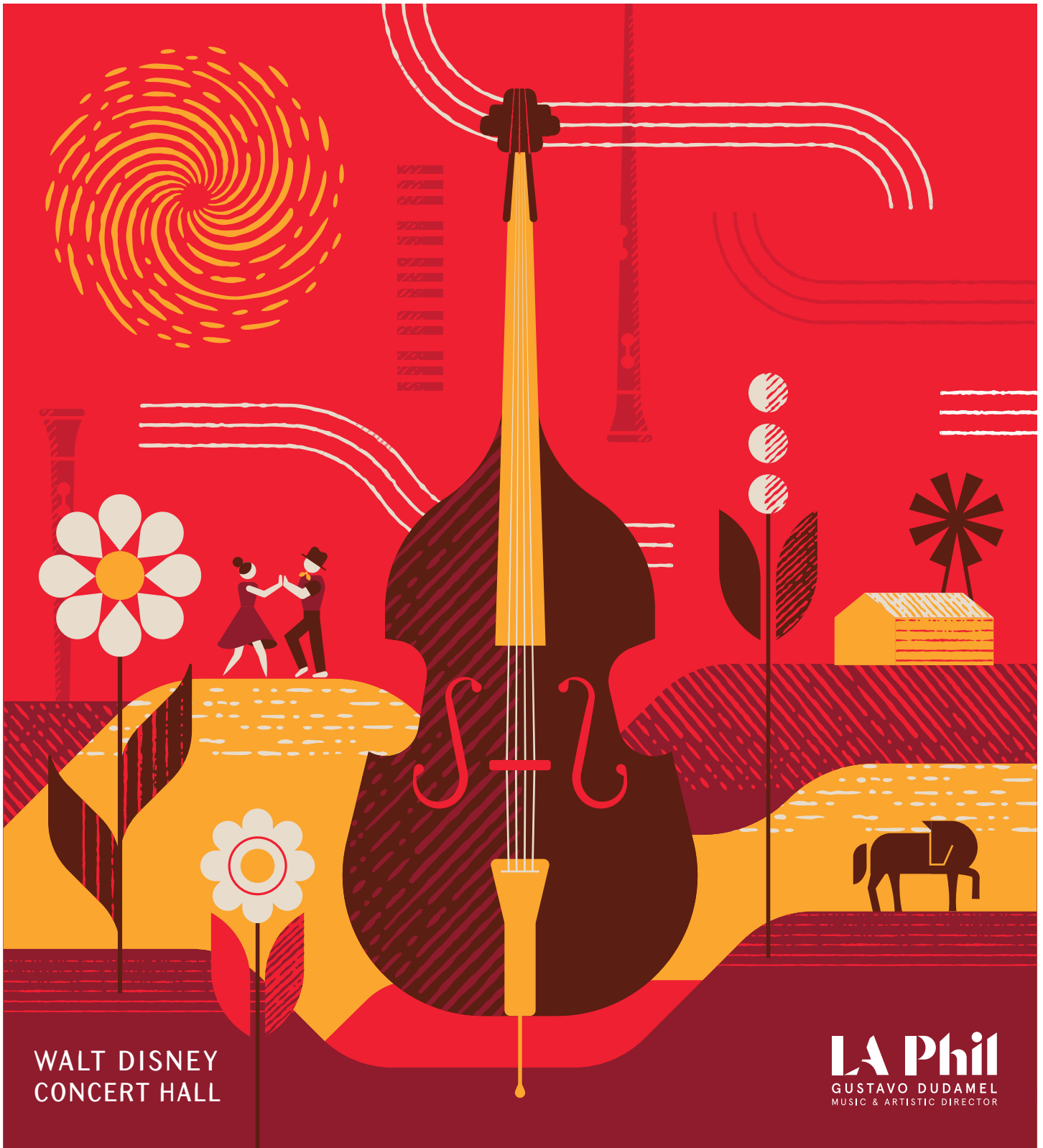


Toyota Symphonies for Youth

# Copland's America



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# About the Composer

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## AARON COPLAND

Born 1900, New York City

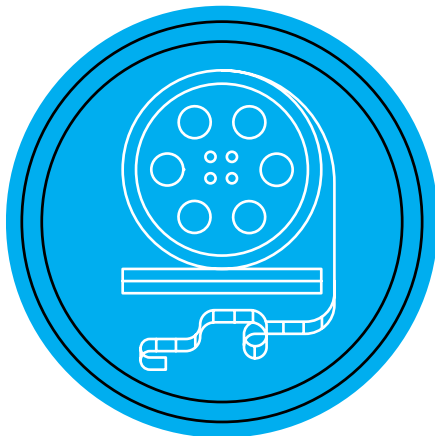
Died 1990, Tarrytown, New York

*“Music is in a continual state of becoming.”*

The quintessential American composer, Copland worked with a wide range of techniques and styles in virtually every musical genre. He studied with Nadia Boulanger in Paris and benefitted from the championship of Serge Koussevitzky, who conducted the premiere of Copland’s *Music for the Theatre* in 1925 and then led the premiere of Copland’s Piano Concerto in 1927, with the composer as the soloist. Copland is best known for his trio of ballets on American folk motifs – *Billy the Kid* (1938), *Rodeo* (1942), and *Appalachian Spring* (1944) – but he also wrote symphonies and songs, operas and film scores (winning an Academy Award® for his 1949 score for *The Heiress*), choral music, and chamber music.

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## FUN FACTS



Copland wrote many film scores, including the score to the film *Of Mice and Men*.



As a child, Copland was an avid reader, and he loved to read novels on the front steps of his Brooklyn home.



He was presented with the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Lyndon Johnson in 1964.



Copland wanted his music to capture the “essence of America.” His compositions evoked romantic imagery of American folk tales and “the great outdoors.”

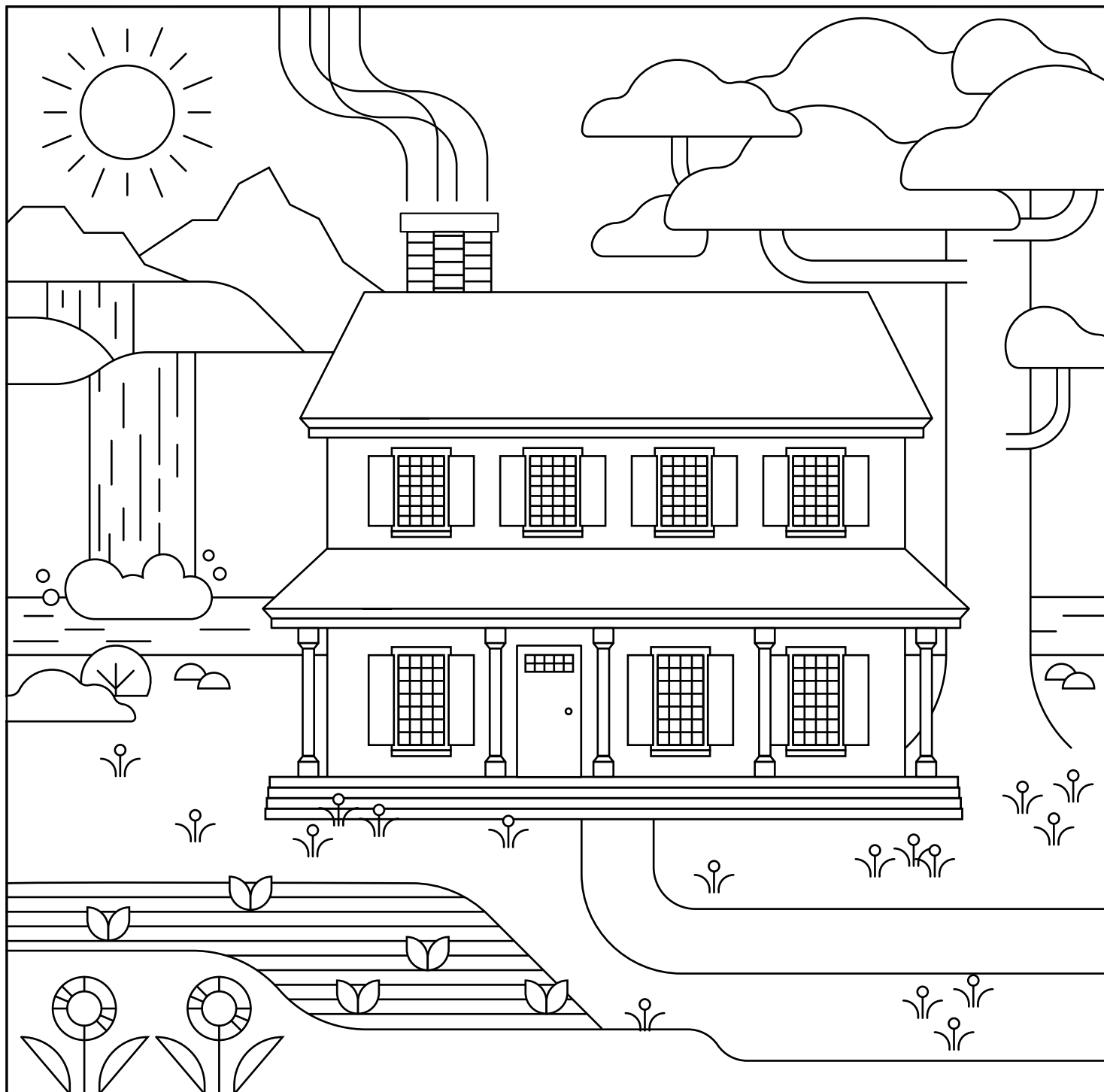
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# Appalachian Spring Coloring

*Appalachian Spring*, choreographed by Martha Graham, tells a simple story of a young farm couple ruminating on their lives before getting married and building a new Pennsylvania farmhouse. Color in this scene of their new American life.

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# Word Search

APPALACHIAN  
COPLAND  
PIONEER  
SIMPLE

GIFTS  
CLARINET  
BALLET  
WOODWIND

REED  
WEST  
PRAIRIE  
SKY

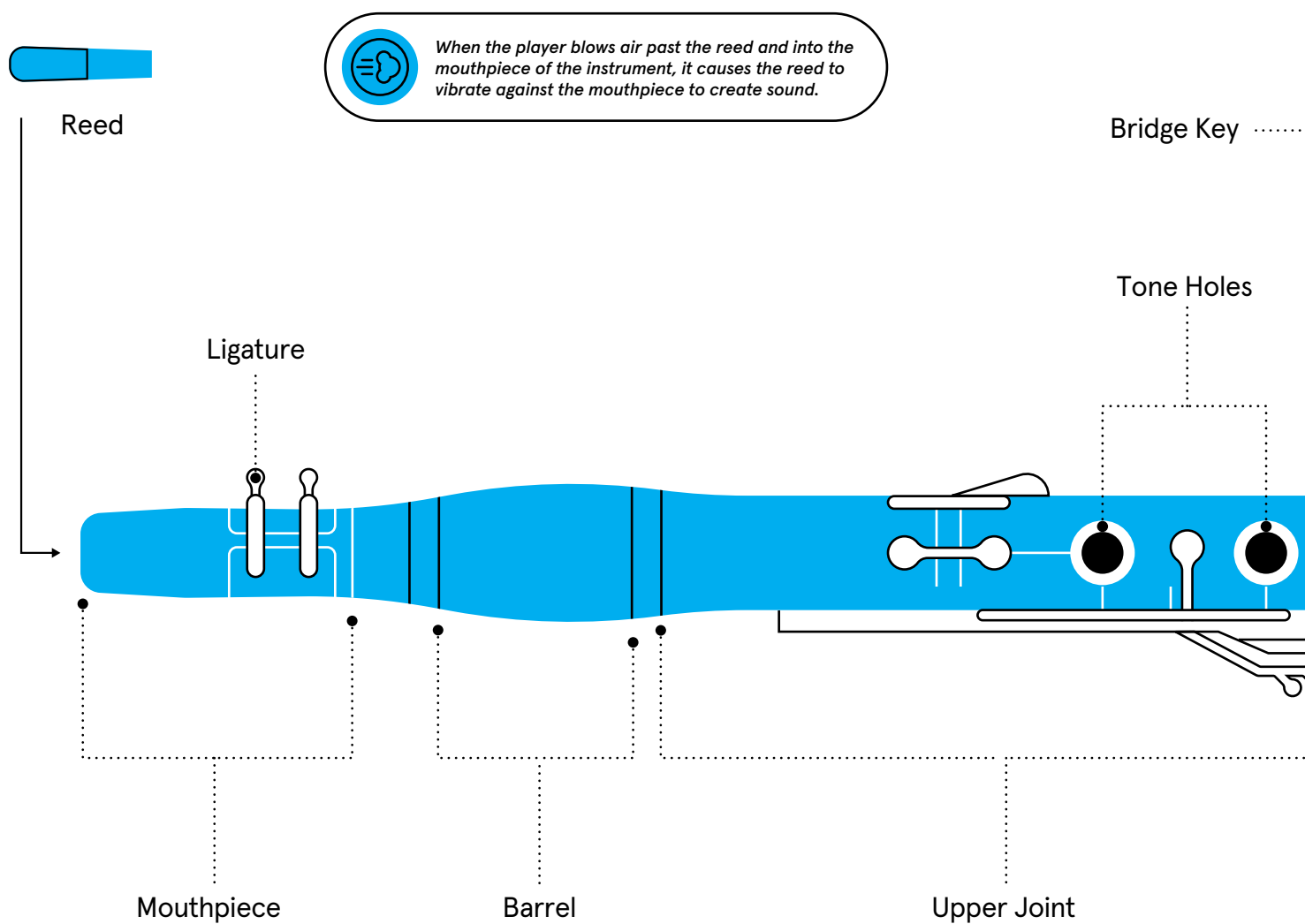
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T H P C E C Y K F Z K T X U U  
E C J G L C T W W N P J D L U  
L P R F Y A O M D R I S F Q S  
L J I K A O R P A N J Q H L T  
A P S B D B E I M Z H N A T F  
B T K W U Y R J N P H X H I I  
K Z I D I I Y R E E N O I P G  
K N C D E L Y B Z N T S E W O  
D L Z M N Y S K N J E Z G M U  
H F A P P A L A C H I A N F G  
N D M Y U D L T Q V N I G L Z  
X O N J M E L P M I S D S Z L  
E C W H O E D X O H H G C K L  
J A R U W R M B Z C X B X Q Y  
C I D P E Y P P F V J U D Y K


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# Anatomy of a Clarinet

Aaron Copland's ballet *Appalachian Spring* begins very quietly and slowly with a beautiful melody in the clarinet. Much of Copland's orchestral music features prominent clarinet parts, and he even wrote a clarinet concerto for jazz clarinetist Benny Goodman.

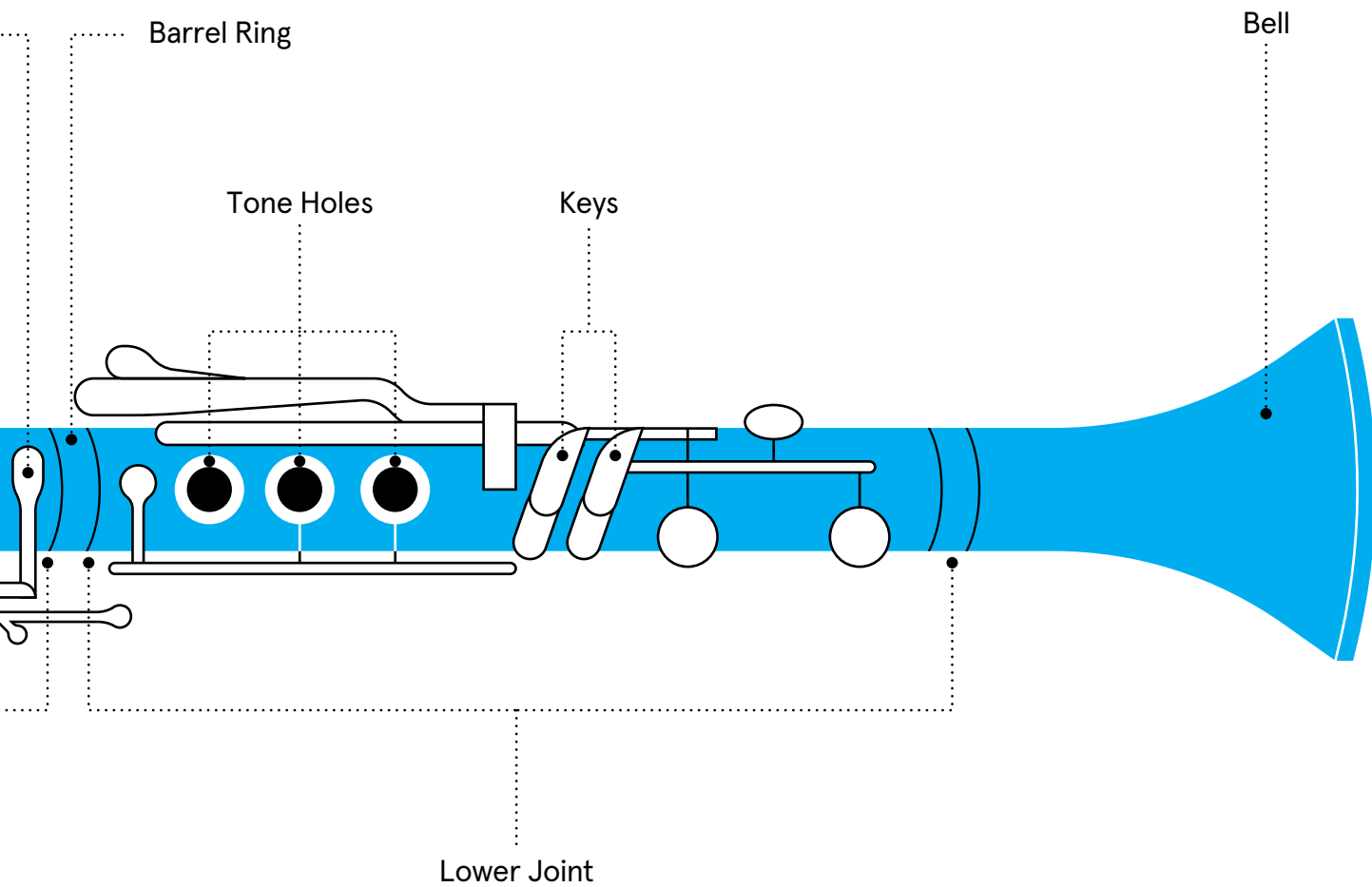


 When the player blows air past the reed and into the mouthpiece of the instrument, it causes the reed to vibrate against the mouthpiece to create sound.

 The clarinet is a standard member of the woodwind family of the orchestra, along with flute, oboe, and bassoon.

2+

*Orchestral music typically calls for two or more clarinets playing individual parts.*



b

*There are many members of the clarinet family, but soprano clarinets are played most often in an orchestra in the keys of B-flat and A.*

# Gratitude Exercise

Gratitude is the quality of being thankful. It is our readiness to show appreciation for and to return another's kindness. Let this traditional Shaker song inspire you to write a letter of gratitude to someone you love on the next page!

Copland's ballet *Appalachian Spring*, written in 1944, uses an old Shaker song called "Simple Gifts." Largely unknown outside of Shaker communities until Copland's popularization of the tune, it is now a signature American folk melody, dear to the hearts of many Americans. A variation of "Simple Gifts" composed by John Williams was performed at the inauguration ceremony for President Barack Obama, and the tune is countlessly referenced in pop culture.

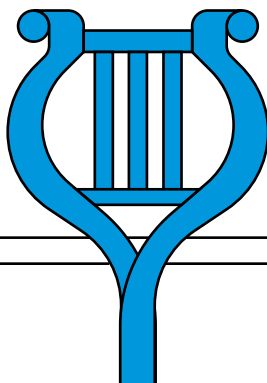
## Simple Gifts

Joseph Bracken, Jr., 1848



### LYRICS

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free  
'Tis the gift to come down where you ought to be,  
And when we find ourselves in the place just right,  
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.



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One of the simplest gifts we can offer is thankfulness to someone we love. Gratitude is our readiness to show appreciation for and to return another's kindness. When we express gratitude and kindness to others, it makes them feel special, and it helps us feel connected to them.

**Think of someone you love** \_\_\_\_\_

**Write down three things you love about them**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Write down three things they do that you are grateful for**

\_\_\_\_\_

Use the space below to write that person a letter or draw them a picture to express your gratitude for what they contribute to your life. Send them the letter or drawing when you are finished.

✂

