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
   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
      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)
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