

Tracing the Lineage of Nadia Boulanger through American Wind Repertoire

Nadia Boulanger's legacy through American wind music begins in Paris in the 1920s. A pedagogue, performer, music critic, lecturer, and former composer, Boulanger's comprehensive knowledge of music attracted students, including her first American pupil Aaron Copland. Boulanger became one of "the" composition teachers to study with in the world; remarkable in its own right, but particularly so because of her gender. She made heavy demands on her students and believed that "rigor, discipline, and enthusiasm were paths to freedom." Several of her American pupils made important contributions to the wind repertoire, setting examples for other composers to follow. Tracing Boulanger's family tree of students through five generations illuminates her resounding impact on American wind music. Today, wind repertoire continues to develop through the legacy Boulanger left as a pedagogue as her family tree of composers continues to expand and sprout new branches.