

21M.260: STRAVINSKY TO THE PRESENT
Class 3: February 9

ASSIGNMENT: Due February 11

- Reading: Auner, p. 56-64.
Ives, "Music and its Future" (handout)
- Anthology work: Charles Ives, Symphony No. 4, Movement 1
- Supplemental: Ives' "Decoration Day" from *New England Holidays*
Jean Sibelius, Symphony No. 5, Movement 1

Before you begin, skim the Grove Music Online article about Ives. Listen to the anthology work at least twice.

Is there anything about this movement that strikes you as conventionally symphonic? If so, what confirms it as a symphony worthy of the genre designation? On the other hand, what main features challenge that generic identification?

As a first movement, this excerpt purportedly "sets up" the themes of the whole work to come. With that as a premise, what "thesis statements" might Ives be making re: music, spirituality, space, etc.?

Pick any two-page opening of the score; identify the layers of material that make up the texture. Use references to the rhythm, timbre, contours, etc. to describe each as distinctive from the other layers.

For your two pages, to what extent could you make a hierarchy of perception for these layers? Or can you force your perception to focus on one layer at a time?

What associations do you have with the word "folk"? Try to come up with some positive and some negative connotations.

According to his essay, what are some of the areas in which Ives saw innovative potential in music?

If you imagine writing an essay called "Music and Its Future," what would it emphasize?

Supplemental listening (listen to both works)

Listen carefully with *no distractions* except a notetaking apparatus (pencil/pen/keyboard), to the Ives and the Sibelius. While you listen, take some notes on what you hear, both the novel features and the features that seem traditional (in the latter case, it may help to refer to other works or composers of which you are reminded). Then, write full sentences with musical evidence to answer the following:

How "Finnish" is Sibelius' Fifth Symphony? How is his Fifth Symphony Finnish?

How "American" is "Decoration Day"? How is "Decoration Day" American?

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