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March 12, 1976

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aaron Copland, widely recognized as "the dean of American composers", will be in residence at Ottawa University April 1-3 conducting a series of orchestra and chamber music concerts, lectures and discussions, including selections of the composer's own work and a major performance by the Kansas City Philharmonic Orchestra.

"Aaron Copland," wrote Dr. Carleton Sprague Smith in "Music Today", "is without question North America's leading composer. He has a flavor which is at once personal and American . . . He can be grand, solemn or gay -- bleak or 'juicy'. As a teacher, public lecturer, author, pianist and conductor, Copland has had the greatest influence of any composer now active in the United States."

Copland's force has been felt on the American musical scene for over half a century. From 1921 to 1924 he studied composition at the Fountainebleau School of Music in France, and with Nadia Boulanger in Paris. His work was first heard in this country at a League of Composers concert in New York in 1924. The following year he was the first composer to win a Guggenheim Fellowship. Beginning in 1928, he and Roger Sessions were responsible for the Copland-Sessions Concerts of American music. His THIRD SYMPHONY won the New York Music Critics Circle Award in 1946. In 1964 Copland was awarded "the highest civil honor conferred by the President of the United States for service in peacetime", the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Aaron Copland has lectured extensively throughout the country on contemporary music, and has taught composition at Harvard and at the Berkshire Music Center. He has authored four books, What to Listen for in Music, Our New Music, Music and Imagination, and Copland on Music. Since 1956 he has received honorary degrees from Oberlin College and from Princeton, Harvard, Brandeis, Hartford, Temple, Illinois Wesleyan, Syracuse, Michigan, and Rhode Island Universities.

In recent years, Copland has been increasingly active as a conductor. He has led more than twenty major symphonic organizations in England, France, Germany, Japan, Italy, Yugoslavia, Portugal, the Soviet Union, and the Scandinavian countries.

Copland's appearance at Ottawa University, his second in five years, will begin at 8:00 p.m., Thursday, April 1 in the University Chapel, where he will conduct the Kansas City Philharmonic in a Gala Orchestra Concert. Saturday, April 3, at the same time and place, the Copland Chamber Music Concert will be presented featuring many popular selections from the composer's work, such as Appalachian Spring and The Tender Land, the Ottawa University Choir with Copland conducting, the Wichita State University Graduate String Quartet, pianist Carl Bobbish of the Ottawa University music faculty, and soprano June Lockemann. Reserved seat admissions for the April 1 concert will be \$2.00. Tickets will be available at the University Development Office.

Copland's residency in Ottawa is being sponsored by Ottawa University, the Kansas Arts Commission, Anchor Savings and Loan Association, and Market Management, Inc., Robert Pence, President.

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SPECIAL TO NEWS MEDIA
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Aaron Copland, widely recognized as "the dean of American composers", will conduct the Kansas City Philharmonic Orchestra at Ottawa University on Thursday, April 1. The performance is part of Copland's three-day residency on the Ottawa campus, which will also include a concert of the composer's best known chamber music Saturday, April 3.

Both concerts will be held at 8:00 p.m. in the University Chapel, and both are open to the public. There will be a \$2.00 admission charge for the Thursday evening performance, and tickets will be available at the Development Office.