

WYOMING
SYMPHONY
O R C H E S T R A

CHRISTOPHER DRAGON
MUSIC DIRECTOR

Copland's *Rodeo*: Storytelling through imagery

Entry Deadline: November 27, 2022

Contact email: rebecca@wyomingsymphony.org

Wyoming Symphony Orchestra, Casper, WY

Project Intent:

The Wyoming Symphony Orchestra is seeking a visual artist to create a visual storytelling of Aaron Copland's ballet *Rodeo*, which will be performed during the Wyoming Symphony Orchestra's 4th Masterworks Concert on May 13, 2023. The selected artist will be notified by January 6, 2023, and the WSO must have possession of the digital rendering(s) by May 1st, 2022.

After the concert, the artwork in conjunction with an audio recording of *Rodeo* will be posted on YouTube for public viewing and distributed to Wyoming schools as a part of our Music on the Move educational program.

Artwork Guidelines:

The intention of the artwork is to take the audience through the story of Copland's ballet *Rodeo* (see attached synopsis) as the symphony plays the composition, offering the audience a visual guide and insight to the narrative. *Rodeo* is Aaron Copland's second "cowboy ballet" and a celebration of the American West.

Rodeo is 26 minutes in length. Acceptable media for submission can include, but is not limited to: Drawing/illustration, painting, animation, photography, silent film, or related media. The accepted work must be in a format that can be projected onto a screen during the concert. A reflection of Wyoming culture is desirable.

The artwork must be presented to the WSO in a high quality digital format to be projected in the auditorium, exact specifications for the projections will be provided by the WSO once the artist has been chosen.

Location: John F. Welsh Auditorium, Natrona County High School, Casper, WY.

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Budget:

\$7,500-\$10,000 including artist fee, design fee, materials and final digitization of artwork. Artist's name will be included in all promotional materials for the concert and any offered PR opportunities. Finalists will be asked to provide a breakdown of their budget.

To Apply:

Please submit the following to rebecca@wyomingsymphony.org by November 27th, 2022.

- Three (3) digital samples of previous work
- A minimum of Two (2) preliminary drawings of your concept for *Rodeo* along with a short explanation of the concept for the full work
- Your CV or resume

Selection Criteria:

- Artists must be at least 18 years of age.
- Preference will be given to artists who reside in Wyoming.
- After a review of the submissions, an interview will be scheduled with each of the finalists prior to selecting the artist for this project.

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Rodeo Synopsis:

Rodeo is subtitled “The Courting at Burnt Ranch,” which immediately sets up the idea that the ballet’s story involves young people finding each other and falling in love. And even though *Rodeo* was choreographed some 70 years ago, we still enjoy it today because it portrays universal human emotions: the desire to find love and the hurt of rejection.

In Scene One, we are introduced to a young woman—the Cowgirl—a feisty tomboy who acts like “one of the boys” in order to be liked by them. But she has her eyes set on the Head Wrangler and does her best to get his attention. Sometimes, she sidles up to him. At other times, she tags along after him and the other men, even when she is clearly unwanted.

It becomes clear that the Head Wrangler sees the Cowgirl as an annoyance. He is far more interested in a group of girls who come in from the city to visit the Rancher’s Daughter. At the rodeo, he competes in front of them, showing off until the Cowgirl can’t stand it any longer. She rushes off stage in a jealous fit, only to re-enter to compete alongside the Head Wrangler, including riding a bucking bronco. The women all laugh when she falls to the ground. The Cowgirl has embarrassed herself. Even the Head Wrangler jerks his thumb at her, gesturing for her to go into the house. The Cowgirl leaves in tears.

The rodeo ends and couples pass by slowly. The Cowgirl re-enters, trying once again to gain the attention of the Head Wrangler. But he only has eyes for the Rancher’s Daughter, who he lifts and carries off stage. The Cowgirl dances alone, eventually falling to the floor, sad and rejected.

In Scene Two, the Cowgirl and the others are attending a dance. The Cowgirl is approached by the Lead Roper. They dance and have fun until she sees the Head Wrangler arrive with the Rancher’s Daughter. She quickly leaves only to return in a red dress. Suddenly, the Head Wrangler notices her and he and the Lead Roper vie for her attention. It will take only one kiss from the Lead Roper for her to realize that she has found her true love at last. The Head Wrangler returns to the Rancher’s Daughter, and all dance happily.