

THE TENDER LAND

An Opera

Music by Aaron Copland and libretto by Horace Everett

Those who love *Appalachian Spring* and its wide-open, American, innocent but energetic idiom will discover much of the same feeling of warmth and homespun verisimilitude here. **THE TENDER LAND** focuses on Laurie, a young girl who would be the first in her family to graduate. Yet she longs for her own independence and new experiences apart from her overprotective family and small town life. As the entire town gathers together to dance and celebrate Laurie's graduation, she meets two drifters, Martin and Top, who were recently hired by her grandfather as field hands. Love soon blossoms between Laurie and Martin, and they plan to run away together. The story ends tragically when Martin leaves without her and Laurie is left broken-hearted. But she is determined to find a new life of her own. She leaves, with a single suitcase in hand, and walks down the road toward her new life.