

# **Aaron Copland: Lincoln Portrait (1942)**

**Melodies: “Camptown  
Races” and “Springfield  
Mountain”**

**Aaron Copland: Lincoln Portrait (1942)**

**Melodies: “Camptown Races” and “Springfield Mountain”**

**Fellow-citizens, *we* cannot escape history. We of this Congress and this administration, will be remembered in spite of ourselves. No personal significance, or insignificance, can spare one or another of us. The fiery trial through which we pass, will light us down, in honor or dishonor, to the latest generation.... We -- even *we here* -- hold the power, and bear the responsibility.**

**December 1, 1862 Message to Congress Washington, D.C**

## **Aaron Copland: Lincoln Portrait (1942)**

**Melodies: “Camptown Races” and “Springfield Mountain”**

**The dogmas of the quiet past, are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise -- with the occasion. As our case is new, so we must think anew, and act anew. We must disenthrall ourselves, and then we shall save our country.**

December 1, 1862 Message to Congress Washington, D.C

**Aaron Copland: Lincoln Portrait (1942)**

**Melodies: “Camptown Races” and “Springfield Mountain”**

**It is the eternal struggle between these two principles — right and wrong — throughout the world. They are the two principles that have stood face to face from the beginning of time; and will ever continue to struggle. The one is the common right of humanity, and the other the divine right of kings. It is the same principle in whatever shape it develops itself. It is the same spirit that says, “You toil and work and earn bread, and I’ll eat it.” No matter in what shape it comes, whether from the mouth of a king who seeks to bestride the people of his own nation and live by the fruit of their labor, or from one race of men as an apology for enslaving another race, it is the same tyrannical principle.**

Oct. 15, 1858, Alton, Illinois -Seventh and Last Joint Debate with Steven Douglas

**Aaron Copland: Lincoln Portrait (1942)**

**Melodies: “Camptown Races” and “Springfield Mountain”**

**As I would not be a slave, so I would not be a master. This expresses my idea of democracy. Whatever differs from this, to the extent of the difference, is no democracy.**

August 1, 1858

**Aaron Copland: Lincoln Portrait (1942)**

**Melodies: “Camptown Races” and “Springfield Mountain”**

**From these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion -- that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain -- that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom -- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.**

November 19, 1863, Gettysburg, PA