

PDF I - A // NARRATIVE OUTLINE

The Common Ascent.

Written project script and narrative outline for the BLINK 2026 commission.
Approximately four minutes, scored to Aaron Copland's *Fanfare for the Common
Man*.

STRANGELOOP STUDIOS // CINCINNATI, OCTOBER 2026

NARRATIVE OUTLINE // APPROXIMATELY FOUR MINUTES

Set to Aaron Copland's *Fanfare for the Common Man*, *The Common Ascent* traces the evolving American frontier through five visual chapters, culminating in a future shaped by collective human potential. The façade of Cincinnati Music Hall becomes both monument and canvas, transforming across eras of expansion, industry, technology, and interconnected life.

ACT I

Prairie

0:00-0:45 // TIMPANI +
TAM-TAM

The work opens in darkness. A low atmospheric glow reveals the architecture as horizon lines emerge across the building. Vast skies, stars, grasses, rivers, and hand-drawn maps sweep across the façade. Trails of light move westward, evoking movement, risk, and the early American pursuit of possibility.

As the first brass statements rise, the building itself appears carved from landscape.

ACT II

Steel

0:45-1:30 // TRUMPET +
HORNS

With the music gaining force, the natural world gives way to industrial form. Columns become girders, arches become bridges, towers become smokestacks. Sparks, machinery, rail lines, and geometric construction rhythms animate the façade.

Music Hall transforms into a symbol of civic ambition and modern growth.

ACT III

Silicon

1:30-2:15 // FULL
ENSEMBLE

As tempo and momentum intensify, steel yields to circuitry. Light grids race across the architecture. Windows become pixels, pathways become networks, and the façade pulses with communication, invention, and accelerated connection.

The frontier shifts from physical expansion to technological imagination.

Acts IV / V.

ACT IV

Present

2:15-2:45 // CLIMAX HELD

The visual language becomes human-centered. Thousands of luminous particles move like footprints, voices, heartbeats, and signals. These streams gather from every side of the building, revealing that contemporary systems are powered not only by machines, but by people.

The common citizen emerges as participant, creator, and source of collective momentum.

ACT V

Future

2:45-END // FINAL CHORD
+ TIMPANI FADE

At the musical climax, the building releases upward into radiant geometry. Individual lights rise and join into constellations, forming a new civic skyline of possibility. Music Hall becomes a beacon composed of many voices united.

The final image leaves the audience with a hopeful proposition: the next frontier is one we build together.

MUSICAL RELATIONSHIP

The Visual Pacing Follows Copland's Emotional Architecture.

// SCORE MAPPING

The visual pacing follows Copland's emotional architecture: beginning with solemn space, building through monumental brass declarations, and resolving in a triumphant collective ascent. Every transition between chapters is keyed to a musical event, every held image tied to a held note. The building, the orchestra, and the audience move as one.

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