William Grant Still (1895-1978) was one of America's foremost classical music composers. His oeuvre includes the Afro-American Symphony; Songs of Separation (an art-song cycle); and operas such as Troubled Island and Bayou Legend. A resident of Los Angeles from 1934 until 1978, he also composed scores for film and TV shows (including Perry Mason and Gunsmoke).

Still's artistic vision and life experiences during the era of segregation raise challenging questions about the classical-music canon, race, and California and American history.
Featured Music - William Grant Still Research Guide - LibGuides at University of Southern California

William Grant Still

William Grant Still's Highway One - Still, William Grant
Call Number: 11658mus, CD-Audio, Music Library
Greenville, NC: Visionary Records, 2005
Libretto by Verna Arvey
Opera in two scenes

Festive Overture - Still, William Grant
Call Number: M1004.S84F4 1997, Score Collection, Music Library
New York: C. Fischer, 1997
For orchestra

Symphony No. 1: Afro-American - Still, William Grant
Call Number: 5826mus, CD-Audio, Music Library
Colchester, Essex, England: Chandos, p1993
Detroit Symphony Orchestra
Neeme Järvi, conductor

Symphony No. 2: (Song of a New Race): In G Minor - Still, William Grant
Call Number: 6195mus, CD-Audio, Music Library
Colchester, Essex, England: Chandos, p1993
Detroit Symphony Orchestra
Neeme Järvi, conductor

Search Tips
When searching for music or works about music, experiment with using various keywords combined with AND, as in:

- composers and opera
- african americans and classical music
- "william grant still" and scores

Try to use synonyms and related concepts in your searching. Use quote marks for exact phrase searching.

© University of Southern California

Powered by Springshare; All rights reserved. Report a tech support issue.
View this page in a format suitable for printers and screen-readers or mobile devices.

* Asterisk in guide title indicates core subject guide
Featured Books - William Grant Still Research Guide - LibGuides at University of Southern California

Last Updated: Dec 6, 2013

URL: http://libguides.usc.edu/williamgrantstill

Featured Books

William Grant Still - Smith, Catherine Parsons
Call Number: ML410.S855S64 2008, Music Library
ISBN: 0252033221
Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2008

I Dream a World: The Operas of William Grant Still - Soll, Beverly
Call Number: ML410.S855S69 2005, Music Library
ISBN: 1557287899
Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 2005

Musical Metropolis: Los Angeles and the Creation of a Music Culture, 1880-1940 - Marcus, Kenneth
Call Number: ML200.8.L7M37 2004, Leavey Library
ISBN: 1403964181
Also includes CD-ROM available at the Leavey Library Circulation Desk, Call #ML200.8.L7M37 2004 CD-ROM

Just Tell the Story: Troubled Island - Still, William Grant and Still, Judith Anne
Call Number: ML410.S855J87 2006, Music Library
ISBN: 1877873020
Flagstaff: Master-Player Library, 2006
Title continues: A collection of documents previously published and unpublished, pertaining to the first significant Afro-American grand opera, Troubled Island, by William Grant Still, with librettists Langston Hughes and Verna Arvey / editors, Judith Anne Still, Lisa M. Headlee.

William Grant Still: A Voice High-Sounding - Still, Judith Anne
Call Number: ML410.S855S755 2003, Music Library
ISBN: 1877873152
Flagstaff: Master-Player Library, 2003

William Grant Still: An Oral History - Still, William Grant
Call Number: ML410.S855A5 2000, Music Library
Flagstaff: Master-Player Library
Includes CD of interviews, commentary, and more, Call #12596mus, Music Library.

In One Lifetime - Arvey, Verna
Call Number: ML410.S855A78 1984, Music Library
ISBN: 0938626361
Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 1984

Research Help

This guide was developed by Librarian Sue Tyson (styson@usc.edu), with help from Stephanie Bonjack, Music Librarian and Music Library Head (bonjack@usc.edu), and Music Library Manager Robert Vaughn (rgvaughn@usc.edu).

If you have questions or need help with your research, please feel free to contact Stephanie Bonjack.

Search Tips

When searching for books, experiment with using quote marks for exact phrase searches and with using various keywords combined with AND, as in:

"troubled island" composers and opera african americans and classical music

Try to use synonyms and related concepts in your searching.
Here are some more books of interest about William Grant Still and related topics:

- **William Grant Still: A Study in Contradictions**
  Smith, Catherine Parsons
  Berkeley: University of California Press, 2000
  ML410.S855S65 2000
  Music Library

- **William Grant Still: A Bio-Bibliography**
  Still, Judith Anne
  Flagstaff: Master-Player Library, 1996
  ML134.S677S75 1996
  Music Library

- **Langston Hughes: The Man, his Art, and his Continuing Influence**
  Trolman, C. James
  PS3515.U274Z6733 1995
  Doheny Library

- **William Grant Still and the Fusion of Cultures in American Music**
  Still, Judith Anne
  Flagstaff: Master-Player Library
  ML410.S855W52 1995b
  Music Library

- **The William Grant Still Reader: Essays on American Music**
  Still, William Grant
  Durham: Duke University Press
  ML410.S855A5 1992
  Music Library
### Articles

The following sources are being searched:

- America: History and Life
- International Index to Music Periodicals Full Text
- JSTOR
- Music Index
- Oxford Music Online
- ProQuest Research Library Complete
- Web of Science®

#### Recommended Databases

**Suggested keywords:** opera, composers, classical music, african american composers, "troubled island," rac* (includes all terms that begin with the stem rac-, such as race, racism, racist), social conditions, and more.

Be sure to experiment with related terms and synonyms, combining terms with AND, as in:

- opera and composers and california
- rac* and classical music and william grant still

These databases are available to USC subscribers only; for free Web links, please click on the Websites tab in this guide.

- African American Music Reference
- Classical Music Library
- Database of Recorded American Music (DRAM)
- Grove Music Online
- International Index to Music Periodicals Full Text
- Naxos Music Library
- RILM Abstracts of Musical Literature
- ProQuest Interdisciplinary Dissertations and Theses
- America: History and Life
- Web of Science/Arts and Humanities Citation Index

#### Other Databases

- **JSTOR** A growing full text collection of core social science, humanities, and science journals
- **ProQuest Historical Newspapers** Provides access to full text and page images of major historical newspapers, including the following. Choose from a wealth of historical newspapers under the "Databases" drop-down menu.
  - Los Angeles Sentinel, 1934-2005 – major African American newspaper
  - Los Angeles Times, 1881-1986 - key mainstream newspaper
- **ProQuest Research Library** Key multidisciplinary database providing fulltext access to magazine and newspaper articles, scholarly journal articles, and dissertations
- **Wilson Omnimile** Key multidisciplinary database providing citations and full text
- **WorldCat** Contains over 32 millions records of articles, books, and other resources from libraries around the world

**Comments (0)**
Some Resources on the Web

- Still Going On: Celebrating The Life and Times of William Grant Still
- William Grant Still Collection
- African American Odyssey
- Mississippi Writers and Musicians: William Grant Still
- National Gallery of Art Podcast: Concert of Still's Music
- Judith Anne Still Open Library

Comments (0)

WGS on YouTube!

YouTube has many clips featuring performances of William Grant Still's works. Here's one featuring Rachel Barton Pine, classical violinist and founder of the String Student's Library of Music by Black Composers, a supplemental curriculum featuring music by composers of African descent from around the world:

Comments (0)

Research Help

This guide was developed by Librarian Sue Tyson (s Tyson@usc.edu), with help from Stephanie Bonjack, Music Librarian and Music Library Head (bonjack@usc.edu), and Music Library Manager Robert Vaughn (rgvaughn@usc.edu).

If you have questions or need help with your research, please feel free to contact Stephanie Bonjack.

Comments (0)