

Classics for Kids



Jennifer Morris



Naomi Lewin

Listen to Classics for Kids®
with Naomi Lewin every
Saturday morning at 8:50
and
Sunday evening at 6
on WGUC 90.9 fm.

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"Humor"

Third movement from *Afro-American Symphony*

William Grant Still

Born: May 11, 1895

Died: December 3, 1978

William Grant Still was born in Woodville, Mississippi. He was the son of two school teachers. But when he was very little, William's father died, so he and his mother went to live with her mother in Little Rock, Arkansas.

William grew up listening to his grandmother tell stories about her life as a slave on a plantation in Georgia. And he also grew up hearing her sing spirituals that she learned as a child. Later on, those stories and spirituals found their way into his music.

When William was nine, his mother remarried. His stepfather loved music, too. He bought a victrola, an early phonograph, with which he introduced William to all kinds of music he'd never heard before, including opera. William took violin lessons when he was young, and then taught himself to play the cello,

clarinet, oboe and French horn.

Still went to Wilberforce University in Ohio to study medicine, but that didn't last long. Still began his music career in Columbus, Ohio. Then, the great blues performer W.C. Handy invited him to come to Memphis to play with his band, and to do musical arrangements for them. That's when the blues started finding their way into Still's compositions.

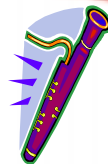
William Grant Still's *Afro-American Symphony* was the first symphony by a black composer to be performed by a major orchestra. And he was the first African-American to conduct a major American orchestra. But Still earned his living writing background music for radio and television — shows like *Guns, Smoke, Perry Mason*, and *The Three Stooges*. In addition to symphonies, Still's classical compositions include chamber music, operas, and ballets.

Listen Up!

Circle the instruments that you hear in "Humor," the third movement of William Grant Still's *Afro-American Symphony*.



Grand Piano



Bassoon



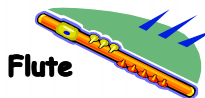
French Horn



Violin



Cymbals



Flute



Trumpet

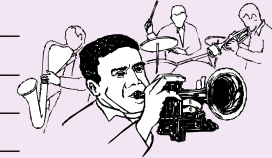


Timpani

It's All Music!

There are many different styles of music. Just move your radio tuner around and you'll be surprised at all you find. Ask your parents, grandparents, neighbors, and friends what kind of music they like to listen to. List as many different styles of music as you can.





Hidden Message Puzzle

Unscramble each of the clue words. Copy the letters on the numbered lines to the other lines with the same number. All of the words are important words from William Grant Still's Biography.

LAIIMLW RAGTN SITLL

8 9 9 2 11 14 2 7 12 10 9

AOTIVLRC

3 9 13 10 14 2

ZAZJ

2

ESLUB

6 4 12

C.W. DHANY

13 1 2 7 16 15

SAISCLSC ROF DIKS

13 2 12 12 9 13 12 5 14 9 15 12



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 1 11 6 12 9 13 4 3 4 14 15 16 2 15

Why not create your own original piece of art while listening to "Humor."

Draw a picture, or write your own story, if you wish, on blank 8 1/2" x 11" paper. Send us your art and we may post it on our Classics for Kids website for you to share with others.

Our address is:
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Spring by Bianca Brown