



Edgarr Varèse

William Grant Still's grandmother had been a slave. She told young William about the horrors of slavery. She also sang him the spirituals which gave her and her family strength to endure.



Became the conductor for his classical ensemble in college

Musical Influences on WG Still's life



Still's stepfather bought a Victrola when he was in his teens. William fell in love with the Operas he would listen to.



Still took violin lessons from an early age and continued to play the violin even throughout college. He joined a string quartet in college and played classical music.



Jazz was the popular music of the day. Ragtime, Dixieland, Blues, Swing



William arranged and played in WC Handy's band while he was in college and after he returned from WWI

