



AMERICAN CLASSICS

The life and career of the African-American composer William Grant Still qualifies as the quintessential American success story. Often referred to as the dean of African-American composers, Still rose from humble beginnings to work as an arranger while studying composition with Chadwick and Varèse. An active participant in the Harlem Renaissance, Still embraced African-American forms such as the blues, spirituals and jazz in addition to other ethnic American genres. The *Afro-American Symphony* established his reputation worldwide, and remains his most popular and most recorded work. His brooding tone poem *Africa* is part of a trilogy of works depicting African-American roots while *In Memoriam* is a poignant tribute to the sacrifices of African-Americans during the Second World War.

WORLD PREMIERE
RECORDINGS

Booklet notes in English
Kommentar auf Deutsch



William Grant
STILL
(1895-1978)

Playing
Time:
60:09

- | | | |
|----------|---|--------------|
| 1 | In Memoriam (1943) * | 7:22 |
| | Africa (Symphonic Poem) (1930) * | 27:51 |
| 2 | Land of Peace | 12:27 |
| 3 | Land of Romance | 7:01 |
| 4 | Land of Rapture | 8:22 |
| | Symphony No. 1 | |
| | 'Afro-American' (1930) | 24:57 |
| 5 | Moderato Assai | 7:47 |
| 6 | Adagio | 5:14 |
| 7 | Animato | 3:16 |
| 8 | Lento, con risoluzione | 8:39 |

Fort Smith Symphony
John Jeter

* denotes World Première recording
Support for this recording was provided by the Arkansas Arts Council, City of Fort Smith, Fort Smith Convention & Visitors Bureau, and the Fort Smith Area Community Foundation.

Track 1 published by MCA
Tracks 2-4 published by William Grant Still Music
Tracks 5-8 published by Chester/Novello
Recorded at Arkansas Best Corporation Performing Arts Center, Fort Smith, Arkansas, USA, on 28th and 29th February, 2004

Producer and Engineer: Tim Handley
Booklet Note: David Ciucevich
Cover Painting: *Steamboat Race on the Mississippi River* (1871) by Nathaniel Currier and James Merritt Ives (The Art Archive/ Yale University/Joseph Martin)
American flag, folk artist, 1880s.

All rights in this sound recording, artwork, texts and translations reserved. Unauthorised public performance, broadcasting and copying of this compact disc prohibited.
© & © 2005 Naxos Rights International Ltd.
Made in the EU

DDD

COMPACT
disc
DIGITAL AUDIO

8.559174

LC 05537

NAXOS