

Playing
Time:
65:31

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COMPACT
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William Grant STILL

(1895-1978)

Three Visions (1935)

- 1 Dark Horsemen
- 2 Summerland
- 3 Radiant Pinnacle

Seven Traceries (1939)

- 4 Cloud Cradles
- 5 Mystic Pool
- 6 Muted Laughter
- 7 Out of the Silence
- 8 Woven Silver
- 9 Wailing Dawn
- 10 A Bit of Wit

- 11 **The Blues**
(from the Ballet *Lenox Avenue*) (1937)

A Deserted Plantation (1933)

- 12 Spiritual
- 13 Young Missy
- 14 Dance

Africa (1928) (arr. for piano by Verna Arvey)

- 15 Land of Peace
- 16 Land of Romance
- 17 Land of Superstition

Mark Boozer, Piano

Recorded at ACA Digital Recording Studio, Atlanta, Georgia, USA, 16th August 2001 (Track 15-17) and 9th and 11th October 2002
American Classics Series Producers: Marina A. Ledin and Victor Ledin, Encore Consultants • Music Producer: Mark Boozer
Executive Producer & Booklet Notes: Judith Anne Still
Recording Engineer: Tommy Joe Anderson
Digital Editor: Fred W. Horton III
Mastering Engineer: Anthony J. Casuccio, Xtream Audio
Cover Image: *Zachariah*, 1943 by Horace Pippin (1888-1946)
[Bridgeman Art Library / Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown, OH, USA] American flag by a folk artist, 1880s.



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 wrote works that are nationalistic, using African-American forms such as the blues, spirituals and jazz in addition to other ethnic American genres. The piano works on this recording are essentially visions of African-American life and history, through which Still depicts the positive nature and progress of a courageous people, from the African cradle of civilization, to a glorious future in the afterlife. The orchestral version of *Africa* is available on Naxos 8.559174.

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