



## AMERICAN CLASSICS

Often referred to as the ‘dean of African-American composers’, William Grant Still received many honours for his pioneering music for the concert platform, film and television. Still’s most distinctive works use African-American forms such as the blues, spirituals and jazz within a neo-romantic idiom. He declared that his *Fourth Symphony* was ‘intended to represent the spirit of the American people’, an *idée fixe* unifying its four contrasting movements into an appealing whole. His triumphant *Fifth Symphony* celebrates ‘the sharing of resources and achievements’ which the composer saw as the key to America’s greatness.

## WORLD PRÉMIÈRE RECORDINGS

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William Grant  
**STILL**  
(1895–1978)

**Symphony No. 5  
'Western Hemisphere'  
(1945, rev. 1970)**

<b>1</b>	<b>Briskly</b>	<b>3:20</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Slower, and with utmost grace</b>	<b>6:36</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Energetically</b>	<b>2:48</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Moderately</b>	<b>6:48</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Poem for Orchestra (1944)</b>	<b>10:27</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Moderately</b>	<b>6:08</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Slowly</b>	<b>6:54</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>With a graceful lilt</b>	<b>3:03</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Slowly and reverently</b>	<b>10:04</b>

**Fort Smith Symphony  
John Jeter**

This recording was made possible in part by a grant from the Department of Arkansas Heritage and the Fort Smith Convention and Visitor’s Bureau.

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Cover painting: *Crossing America in an express train, United States* (1859) by Nathaniel Currier and James Merritt Ives (The Art Archive / Bibliothèque des Arts Décoratifs Paris / Alfredo Dagli Orti) • American flag, folk artist, 1880s

Playing Time:  
**56:24**

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