

1939
1940

Name Still, William Grant (M) 1895

Negro

White Southerner

music - comp
~~Fine Arts~~

Position Holder of Guggenheim fellowship for musical creation

Special Field Group Creative work in Music

College Wilberforce University, 1911-15, within 2 months of degree

University Master of Music conferred by Wilberforce in 1936; Oberlin Conservatory of Music; George Chadwick of New England Conservatory; Edgar Varese.

Plan of Work:

no

1939 The composition of a ballet on a folk theme; the composition of a new opera on a legendary subject.

1940 For completion of an opera on a legendary subject. "A Bayou Legend."

Action of Fellowship Committee:

1939 Granted \$2,000

1940 Granted \$2,000



See printed statement attached to digest for musical activities.

Guggenheim fellowship 1934-35, renewed for six months in 1935, and again for six months in 1938. Early study with Mr. Chadwick and Mr. Varese amounted to free scholarship, as did part of training at Oberlin.

some

11/7/40. Asked to write music for a Revue to be produced by Hollywood Theatre Alliance in association with the New Negro Theatre, one scene to deal with the Negro cotton picker and the cotton picking machine, and a scene presenting an African tribal dance. This group also asked Mr. Still to serve as musical director solely in an advisory capacity. Approval given by Fund.

Conducted the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra during first quarter of renewal of fellowship in two movements from his own G Minor Symphony and an excerpt from La Guiblesses (at the San Francisco Fair) and conducted the Rochester Symphony Orchestra in same performances at the New York Fair. Both concerts were given by the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers.

In December '44 Still was winner of a \$1,000 war bond for his Festive Overture, written for the golden jubilee of the Cincinnati Symphony orchestra. This piece was to be performed January 19 and 20, 1945 by the Cincinnati orchestra in celebration of the jubilee. In January 1945, it was announced that Stokowski would direct Still's opera "Troubled Island". This is believed to be the first grand opera written by an American Negro ever to be given a professional production.

3670 Cemarrou Street

Los Angeles, Calif.

U N I V E R S I T Y

STILL, WILLIAM GRANT

COMPOSITIONS

"Miss Sally's Party," music for ballet, with scenario by Verna Arvey, received in August, 1939.

"Seven Traceries," for piano, received in December, 1939.

"And They Lynched Him on a Tree", March, 1940

"A Bayou Legend", completed during fellowship. Also started "Plain Chant for America. 8/12/41

"Pastorela" written especially for Louis Kaufman played first time March 14, 1947 at Town Hall in New York



\$2,000
printed

1931

WILLIAM GRANT STILL

(44)

Guggenheim Fellow

Creative work in music

Excellent man
one of the top composers
Truly sad for us
How about possibility of
another Guggenheim award
instead?

X

because of age and
more natural candidacy
under [unclear] than
under [unclear]
UNIVERSITY

1940

WILLIAM GRANT STILL

Composer (Reappointment)

Music composition

Absolutely top man
 Only consideration is how
 long can such people be
 supported on fellowships
 Maybe we better carry him
 another year
 Not above last year's grant of \$2,000

yes

yes
 \$1,200
 (or more up to
 2,000 if any
 money burned back)

Candidate **William Grant Still** Special Field
Guggenheim Fellow Creative Work in
 c/o J. Fischer & Bro., 119 W. 40th St., N.Y. Music

Plan of Work *Box 97 Station D Los Angeles*
 The composition of a ballet on a folk theme; the composition of a new opera on a legendary subject.

Digest of Application

Born May, 1895, Woodville, Mississippi. Married, Four children.

Attended Wilberforce University, 1911-15, no degree. Awarded honorary degree of Master of Music by Wilberforce. Also studied at Oberlin Conservatory of Music, and with George Chadwick of the New England Conservatory and with Edgar Varese.

Guggenheim Fellowship in 1934, renewed for six months a year later. In spring of 1938 again renewed for six months. \$200 a month.

See attached.

- References
 Dr. Alain Locke, Department of Philosophy,
 Howard University, Washington, D. C.
 Mr. George Fischer, Publisher, 119 W. 40th St.
 New York City
 Dr. Leopold Stokowski, Conductor, Philadelphia
 Orchestra, 1718 Rittenhouse St., Philadelphia

Budget Summary

Total amount needed \$2100-2400
 From applicant -----
 From Fund \$2100-2400
 Granted \$2000

Committee Notes

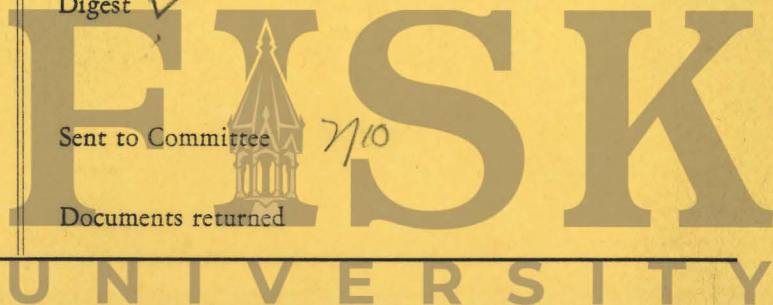
- Documents submitted
 Photograph
 Exhibit material
 Transcripts

Plan of work

Digest

Sent to Committee *7/10*

Documents returned



Candidate

William Grant Still

Special Field

Original Work in

Plan of Work
 The composition of a ballet on a folk theme, the composition of new operas on a legendary subject.
 Played in both radical & conservative camps.
 No one who has produced as great

Digest of Application

Born May, 1895, Woodville, Mississippi. Married. Four children.

Attended Wilberforce University, 1911-15, no degree. Awarded honorary degree of Master of Music by Wilberforce. Also studied at Oberlin Conservatory of Music, and with George Chadwick of the New England Conservatory and with Edgar Varese.

Guggenheim Fellowship in 1934, renewed for six months a year later. In spring of 1938 again renewed for six months. \$200 a month.

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From Fund \$2100-2400

Granted \$2000

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Dr. Alain Locke, Department of Philology, Howard University, Washington, D. C.
 Mr. George Fischer, Publisher, 119 W. 40th St. New York City
 Dr. Leopold Stokowski, Conductor, Philadelphia Orchestra, 1718 Rittenhouse St., Philadelphia

Committee Notes

Digest ✓

Sent to Committee No

Documents returned

Documents submitted

Photograph x

Exhibic material

Transcripts

Plan of work



UNIVERSITY

Name William Grant Still
 Box 97, Station D.
 Los Angeles, California

Field: Music
 Composition

REAPPOINTMENT

Plan of Work The completion of an opera on a legendary subject (libretto by Verna Arvey), this project having been begun and well under way during the time of the present Rosenwald award.

Probable duration of work one year.

Personal Data Born Woodville, Mississippi, May, 1895.
 Married, four children.

Age: 45

Undergraduate Work Wilberforce University, 1911-15.
 Oberlin Conservatory of Music
 New England Conservatory

Graduate Work Honorary M. Mus. by Wilberforce University.

Experience

Accomplishments Since receiving Rosenwald Fellowship, wrote the theme song for the New York World's Fair, "Swanee River," a short paraphrase included in the Robbins Music Corp. Collection; "Seven Traceries" now in the hands of the engravers.

Guggenheim Fellowship in 1934, renewed for six months a year later; in spring of 1938 again renewed, \$200 per month.
 Rosenwald Fellowship, 1939-40, \$2000.

References

Budget Summary

Total Amount Needed	\$2000.00
From Applicant	_____
From Fund	\$2000.00

AMOUNT GRANTED

\$1200

Plan of Work
 Transcripts

Photograph
 Exhibit Material

Sent to Committee

3/14 41



UNIVERSITY

open-leave
 for [unclear]

Name

William Grant Still

Field: Music
Composition

Box 97, Station B,
Los Angeles, California

REAPPOINTMENT

Plan of Work
The completion of an opera on a legendary subject (libretto by
Verna Arvey), this project having been begun and well under way during the time
of the present Rosenwald award.

Probable duration of work one year.

relationship to fellowship program.

Personal Data

Born Woodville, Massachusetts, May, 1895.
Married, four children.

Age: 45

Undergraduate Work

Willberforce University, 1911-15.
Opera Conservatory of Music
New England Conservatory

Graduate Work

Honorary M. Mus. by Willberforce University.

Experience

Accomplishments

Since receiving Rosenwald Fellowship, wrote the theme song
for the New York World's Fair, "Swanee River," a short
paragraph included in the Robtson Music Corp. Collection, "Seven Treasures"
now in the hands of the engraver.

Guggenheim Fellowship in 1934, renewed for six months a
year later; in spring of 1938 again renewed, \$200 per month.
Rosenwald Fellowship, 1939-40, \$2000.

References

Budget Summary

Total Amount Needed \$2000.00
From Applicant _____
From Fund \$2000.00

AMOUNT GRANTED \$1200

Sent to Committee

Photography
Exhibit Material

Plan of Work
Transcripts



Open - check for application