

WILLIAM GRANT STILL
PAPERS, 1937 - 1969

SCOPE NOTE

The William Grant Still Collection of five linear feet was obtained for Fisk in 1972 by Robert Holmes, then Associate Director of the Black Studies in Music Project. The collection has published sheet music by the composer.

WILLIAM GRANT STILL
(1895 - 1978)

Composer William Grant Still was born May 11, 1895 in Woodville, Mississippi. He obtained his musical education in the public schools of Little Rock, Arkansas. It was during his high-school years that he began his study of the violin. He continued his studies at Wilberforce College in Ohio, where he was deeply involved in such musical activities as conducting the college band, arranging for various groups, and writing music. Still began performing professionally in 1914. During the summer of 1916, he was an arranger for W. C. Handy, and it was during this period that he made the first band arrangements of "Beale Street Blues" and "St. Louis Blues." After a year with the U.S. Navy (1918), Still left college to work again with Handy. He left Handy in 1921 to serve as an arranger and recording manager for Harry Pace's newly established Phonograph Company, which produced records on the Black Swan label with Ethel Waters and Fletcher Henderson. Playing with such orchestras as Noble Sissle/Eubie Blake, Still continued arranging and writing. He wrote arrangements and orchestrations for radio shows such as "Old Gold Show" and the "Deep River Hour." Having settled in Los Angeles in 1934, he began writing music for films, including "Lost Horizon", "Pennies From Heaven", and "Stormy Weather." He also arranged and composed music scores for such television shows as "Gunsmoke" and the "Perry Mason Show."

WILLIAM GRANT STILL COLLECTION

SHEET MUSIC

Box 1

Sheet Music

- f. 1--"A Psalm For The Living"--Music by William Grant Still; Text by Verna Arvey, for mixed voices and orchestra. N.Y., Bourne, 1965.
- 2--"Dismal Swamp"--Music by William Grant Still; Text by Verna Arvey, Golden West Music Press. New Music. Orchestra Series. 1937.
- 3--"Hard Trials"--Arranged by William Grant Still. N.Y., Bourne, 1961.
- 4--"I Feel Like My Time Ain't Long"--Music by William Grant Still; Selected and Edited by Genevieve Rorke. Bryn Mawr, Penn., Theodore Presser Company, 1956.
- 5--"Is There Anybody Here?"--Music by William Grant Still; Selected and Edited by Genevieve Rorke. Bryn Mawr, Penn., Theodore Presser Company, 1956.
- 6--"Plain Chant For America"--Music by William Grant Still; Poem by Katherine Garrison Chapin; N.Y., Fischer & Bro., 1941.
- 7--"Song For The Valiant"--Music by William Grant Still; Music by William Grant Still; Words by Verna Arvey. Boston, Mass., R.D. Row Company, 1952.