

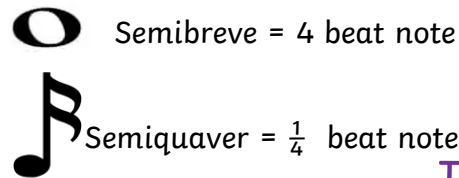
Sticky Knowledge

- ✓ William Grant Still was born on 11th May 1898 and died on 3rd December 1978.
- ✓ He was an American composer and conductor.
- ✓ Still learned to play the violin at age 15. He taught himself to play the clarinet, saxophone, oboe, double bass, cello and viola.
- ✓ He worked for W.C Handy's band. Handy referred to himself at the Father of the Blues.

Important facts to know about Still:

- ✓ Still composed an opera piece called *Troubled Island*. It was the first opera by an African American to be performed by a major company.
- ✓ He was the first African American to conduct a major orchestra in 1955.
- ✓ He created nine operas. The first was called *Blue Steel*.

Notation



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Big Idea

William Grant Still was an American composer of nearly 200 pieces of work. In his famous Symphony no. 1, the style was of jazz and blues.



Vocabulary

fortissimo: play very loudly

pianissimo: play very softly

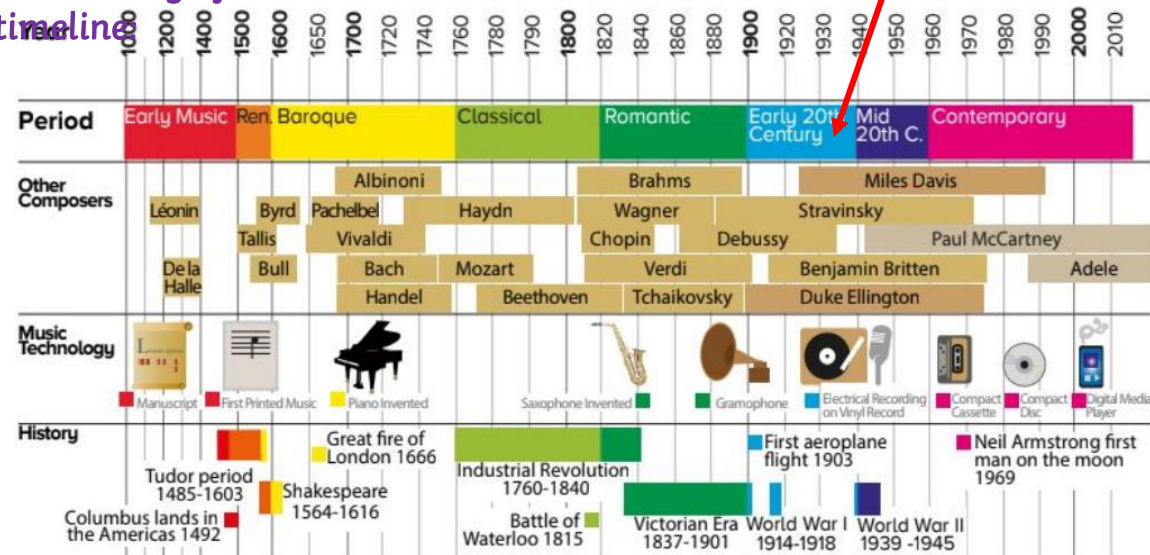
Mezzo forte: moderately loud

Mezzo piano: moderately quiet

Drone: a long held sound such as a chord

Groove: the rhythmic feel or sense of 'swing' of the music

The History of Music timeline



William Grant Still