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MORNING NEWS

# Black History Month: African American composer William Grant Still, Sound/Stage LA Phil and the 40th Annual Black Doll Show



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"AFRO-AMERICAN" SYMPHONY NO. 2 "SORROW"

MORNING

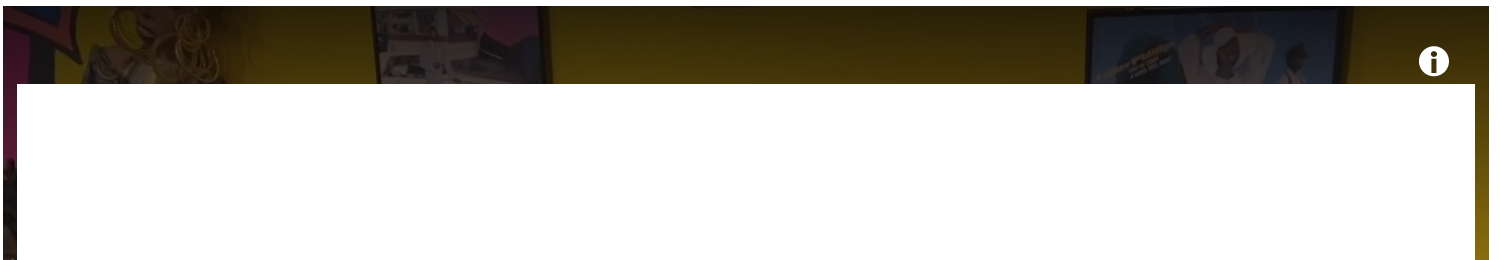


William Grant Still Center



"ALL DOLLED UP"

MORNING







Gayle Anderson was in Hollywood, where the L.A. Philharmonic honors the man described as the “Dean of African American Composer.” According to the Library of Congress, William Grant Still’s career was comprised of many “firsts.” He was the first African-American composer to have a symphony performed by a professional orchestra in the U.S., the Symphony no. 1 “Afro-American” (1930). It was premiered

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his *Troubled Island* was the first by an African-American to be performed by a major opera company (New York City Opera, 1949) and that same opera was the first by an African-American to be nationally televised. The L.A. [Philharmonic's SOUND/STAGE / LA PHIL](#), has a new online collection of concert films, and interviews, essays and artwork. The special production honors Still with Music Director and Conductor Gustavo Dudamel performance of Still's "Afro-American Symphony No. 1 – Sorrow."

The L.A. Department of Cultural Affairs has refurbished and named a 1926 fire station for the pioneering African American composer. The William Grant Still Arts Center is home to the longest-running display of Black dolls in Los Angeles. The [40th Annual Black Doll Show "All Dolled Up!"](#) is online this year due to the pandemic. The show closes Saturday, February 20th, 2021.

The Black Doll Show at the William Grant Still Arts Center was started in the 1980s by the Friends of William Grant Still Arts Center, with contemporary artist/curator Cecil Ferguson (1931-2013) as its first curator.

The doll show was inspired by a doll test conducted by Mamie and Kenneth Clark in the 1940s. The tests concluded that due to social stigmas, many African-American children preferred white dolls over black dolls. This test went on to become evidence in civil rights lawsuits. The Clarks became expert witnesses in *Brown vs. Board of Education*, helping to create the landmark decision to desegregate schools. This doll test was conducted again in 2006 by 17-year-old filmmaker Kiri Davis, sadly with the same results.

The doll show features the work of more than two dozen doll artists (and doll collectors), among them the collectible work of black doll artist Patricia Shivers of [Ragnation Dolls](#).



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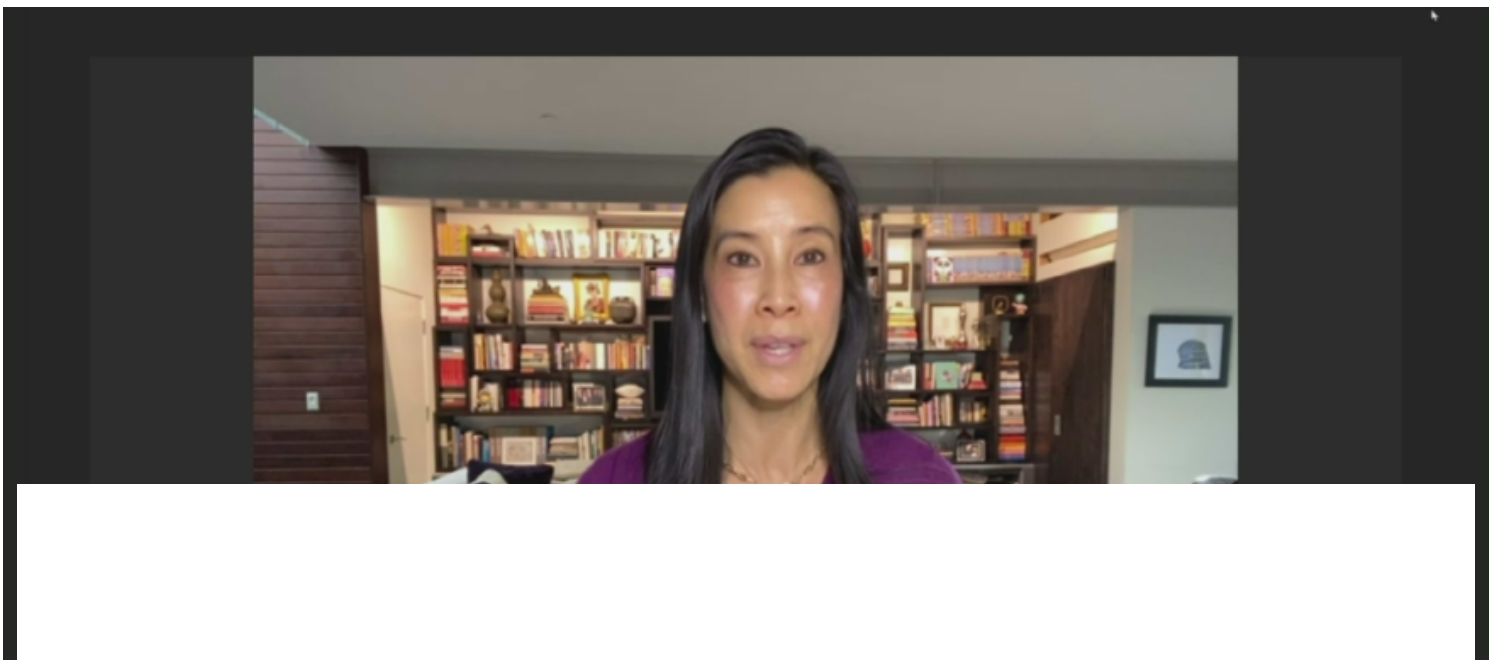
## Reggie Lee on playing the head DDA in the CBS drama 'All Rise'

by Sam Rubin / Mar 1, 2021

'All Rise' airs tonight at 9 p.m. on CBS. This segment aired on the KTLA 5 Morning News, March 1, 2021.

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## Journalist Lisa Ling on the recent increase of hate crimes against Asian-Americans

Mar 1, 2021

This segment aired on the KTLA 5 Weekend Morning News on February 28, 2021.

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## Michael Carbonaro performs magic live

by Sam Rubin / Mar 1, 2021

There are several shows of 'Carbonaro: Live from Space!' coming up in March. You can buy tickets at [michaelcarbonaro.com](http://michaelcarbonaro.com). This segment aired on the KTLA 5 Morning News, March 1, 2021.

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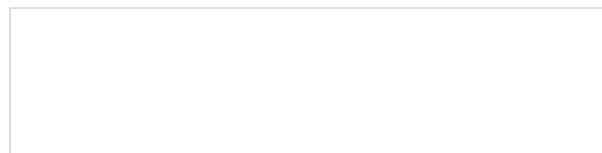
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Nation/world / 2 hours ago

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