



- George Walker was born in Washington, D.C. June 27, 1922.
- He was admitted to Oberlin College as a scholarship student in 1937, and graduated at the age of 18 with highest honors.
- After Oberlin, he was admitted to the Curtis Institute of Music where he studied piano, chamber music, and composition. Graduating in 1945, Walker was the first black graduate from Curtis.
- The second movement of his String Quartet no. 1, entitled, *Lyric for Strings*, was the most frequently performed orchestral work by a living American composer during his lifetime.
- In 1956, he became the first black recipient of a doctoral degree from the Eastman School of Music.
- In 1996, George Walker became the first black composer to receive the Pulitzer Prize In Music for his work, *Lilacs for Voice and Orchestra*.
- George Walker composed over 90 works for orchestra, chamber orchestra, piano, strings, voice, organ, clarinet, guitar, brass, woodwinds, and chorus.



Listen to *Lyric for Strings*