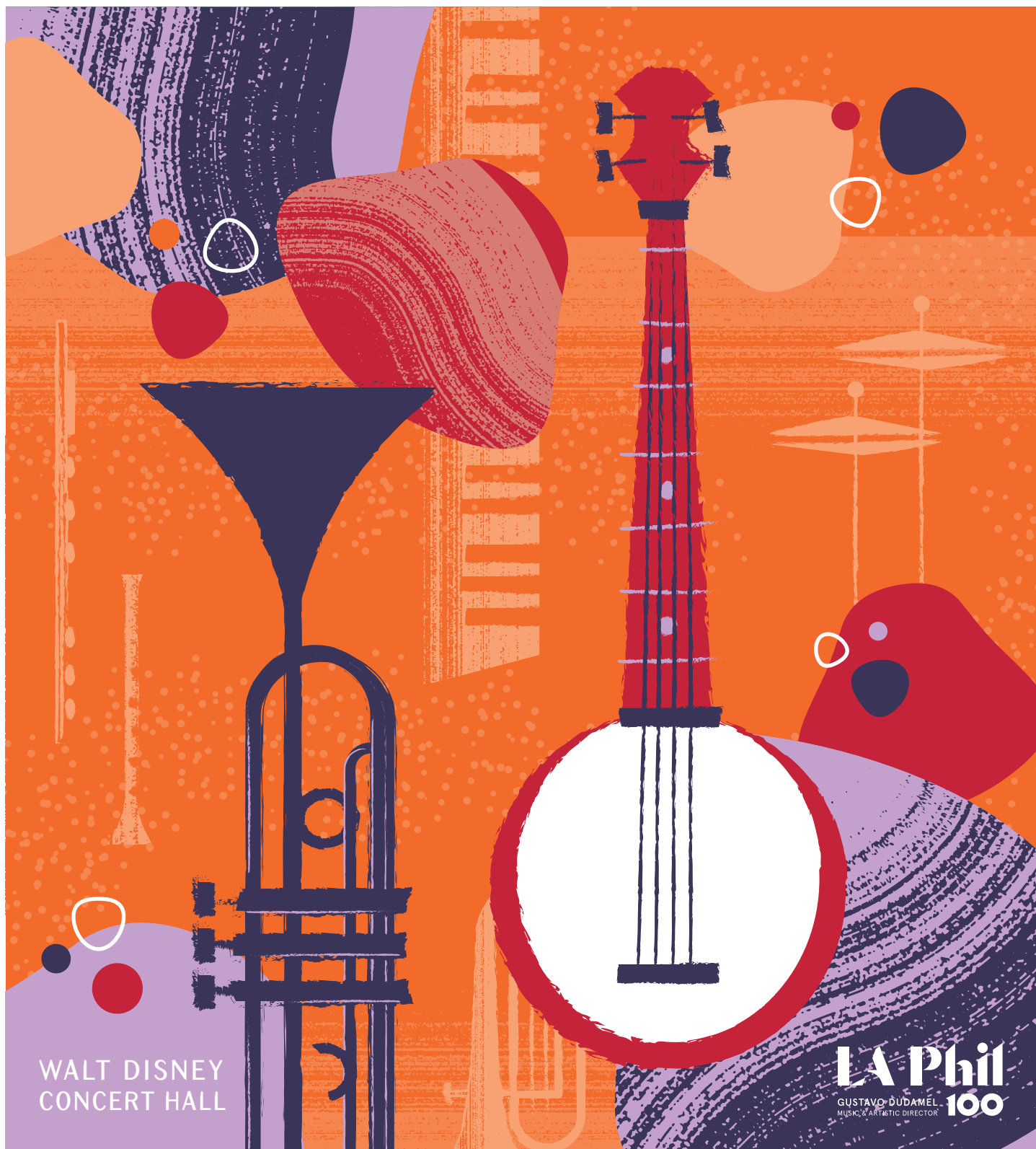


William Grant Still & The Harlem Renaissance



WALT DISNEY
CONCERT HALL

LA Phil
GUSTAVO DUDAMEL
MUSICAL ARTISTIC DIRECTOR **100**

Word Search

BLUES
VIOLIN
MUSIC
HARLEM
TRUMPET

NEW YORK CITY
SYMPHONY
RENAISSANCE
CONDUCTOR
LOS ANGELES

PHILHARMONIC
SAXOPHONE

C	E	D	C	E	B	L	U	E	S	K	E	R	L	T
O	P	K	I	Q	C	I	S	U	M	J	C	O	O	S
E	T	U	N	B	M	I	E	A	B	N	N	T	P	K
W	C	R	O	M	E	D	L	X	S	N	A	C	Q	Y
M	N	B	M	J	L	I	E	G	A	E	S	U	R	O
A	B	H	R	L	R	W	G	Z	X	W	S	D	Z	D
V	A	V	A	O	A	U	N	B	O	Y	I	N	Q	V
W	C	N	H	V	H	R	A	H	P	O	A	O	L	Z
J	E	I	L	T	H	N	S	X	H	R	N	C	Y	H
X	L	L	I	C	Q	L	O	R	O	K	E	G	D	V
Z	G	O	H	G	T	S	L	B	N	C	R	Y	E	T
G	E	I	P	Q	D	M	I	P	E	I	M	F	K	O
X	T	V	B	P	M	F	W	W	K	T	G	X	O	D
J	U	Q	L	Y	N	O	H	P	M	Y	S	D	T	V
E	T	R	U	M	P	E	T	R	W	L	Q	F	I	A

About the Composer

WILLIAM GRANT STILL

Born 1895, Woodville, Mississippi

Died 1978, Los Angeles, California



A gifted composer and conductor, William Grant Still grew up in a home that was filled with music. His stepfather introduced him to operettas and recordings of classical music, and his grandmother sang spirituals and hymns. He moved to New York City in 1919 to arrange and play music for famous blues bands and Broadway shows. He was one of the most prominent artists during the Harlem Renaissance and continued to incorporate diverse styles of music into his classical compositions. His greatest desire was that his music serve to create racial harmony, and throughout his life he broke racial barriers. In 1931, his Symphony No. 1 “Afro-American” was the first symphony composed by an African American to be performed by a major orchestra.

FUN FACTS



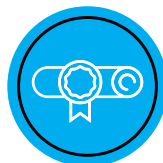
After the violin, William Grant Still taught himself how to play six other instruments: clarinet, saxophone, oboe, bass, cello, and viola!



William Grant Still began learning the violin at age 15.



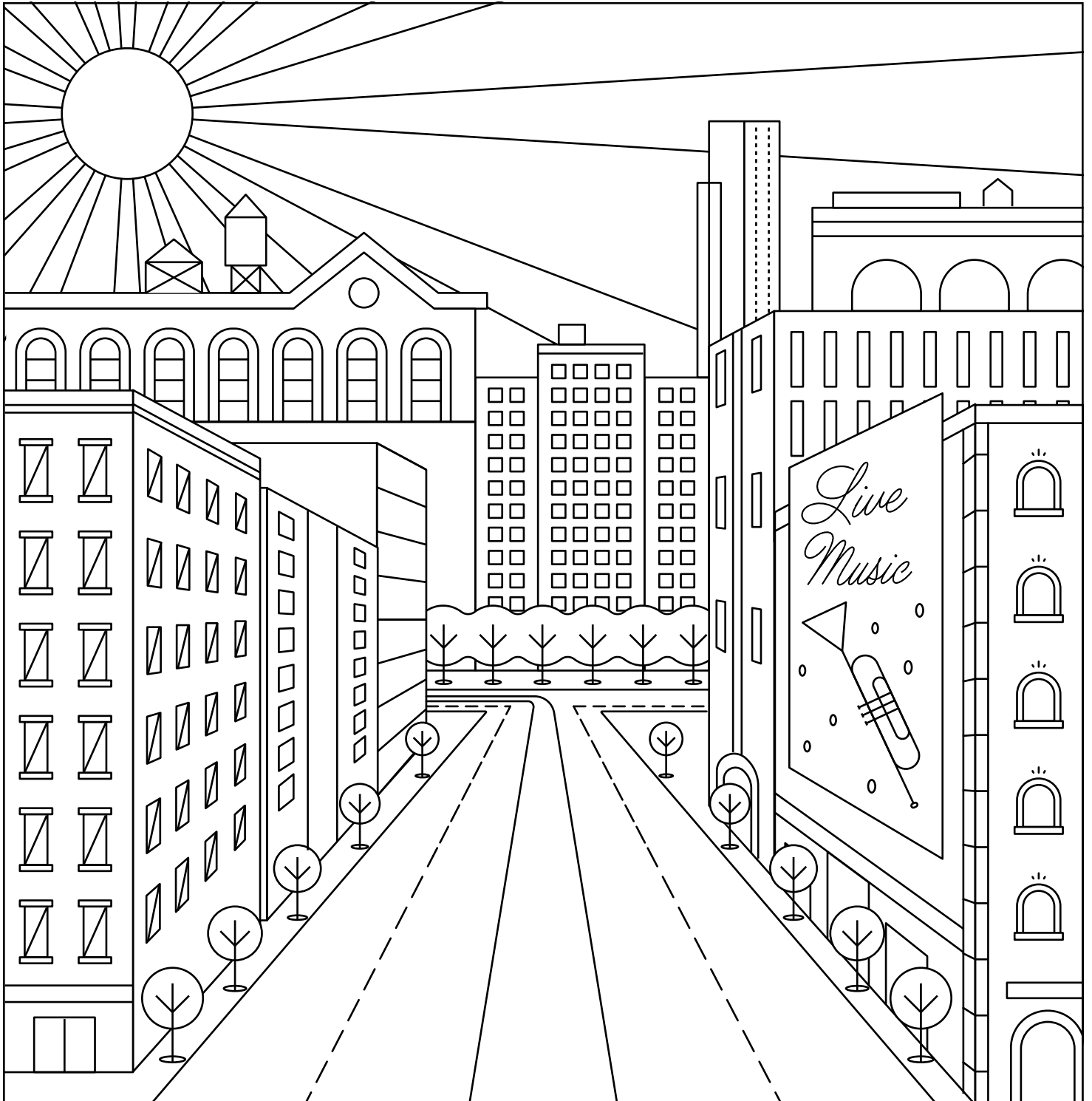
He composed more than 150 works, including five symphonies and eight operas.



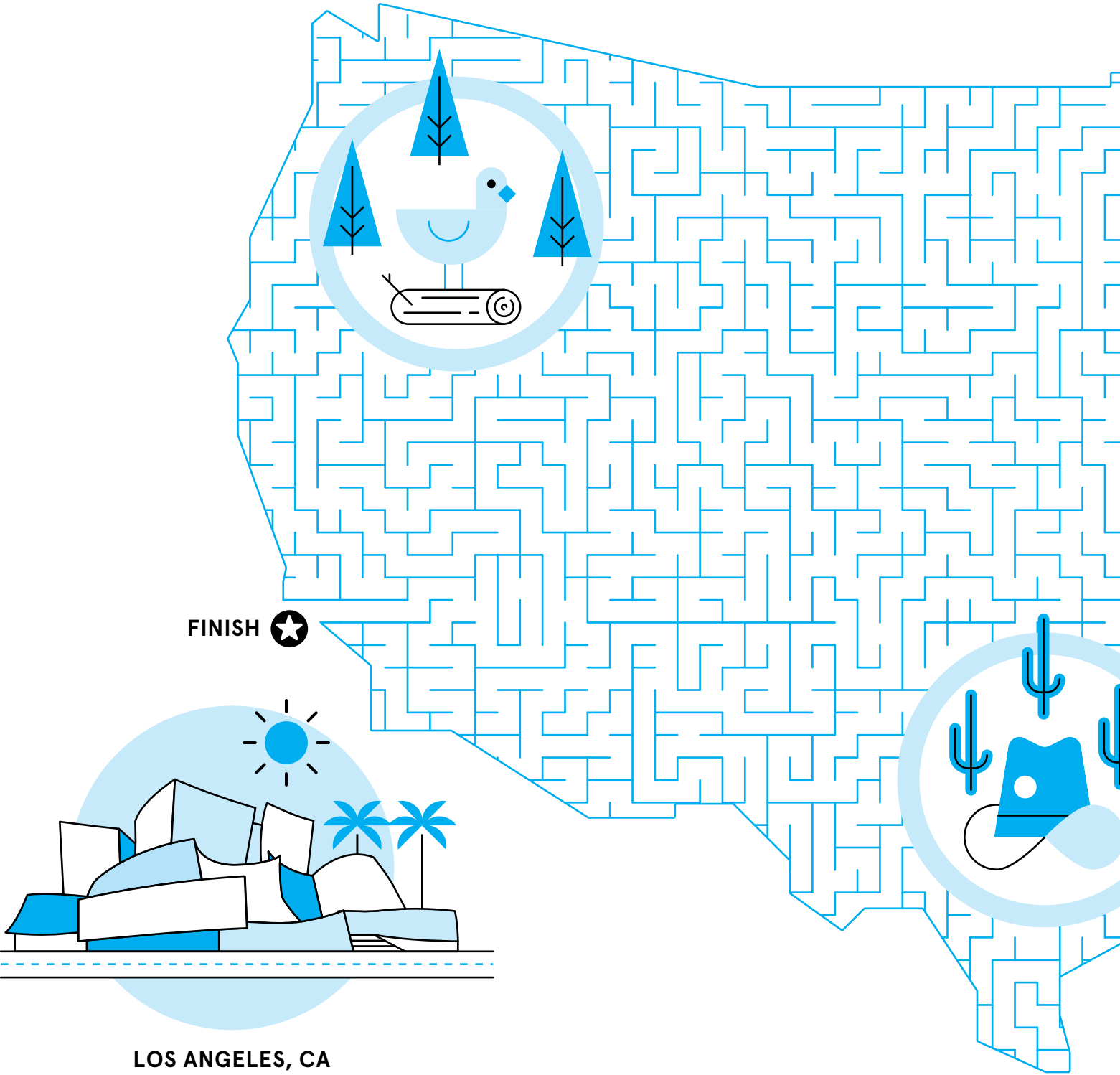
While pursuing a degree in science at Wilberforce University, he conducted the university band, learned various instruments, and started to do orchestrations.

What is the Harlem Renaissance?

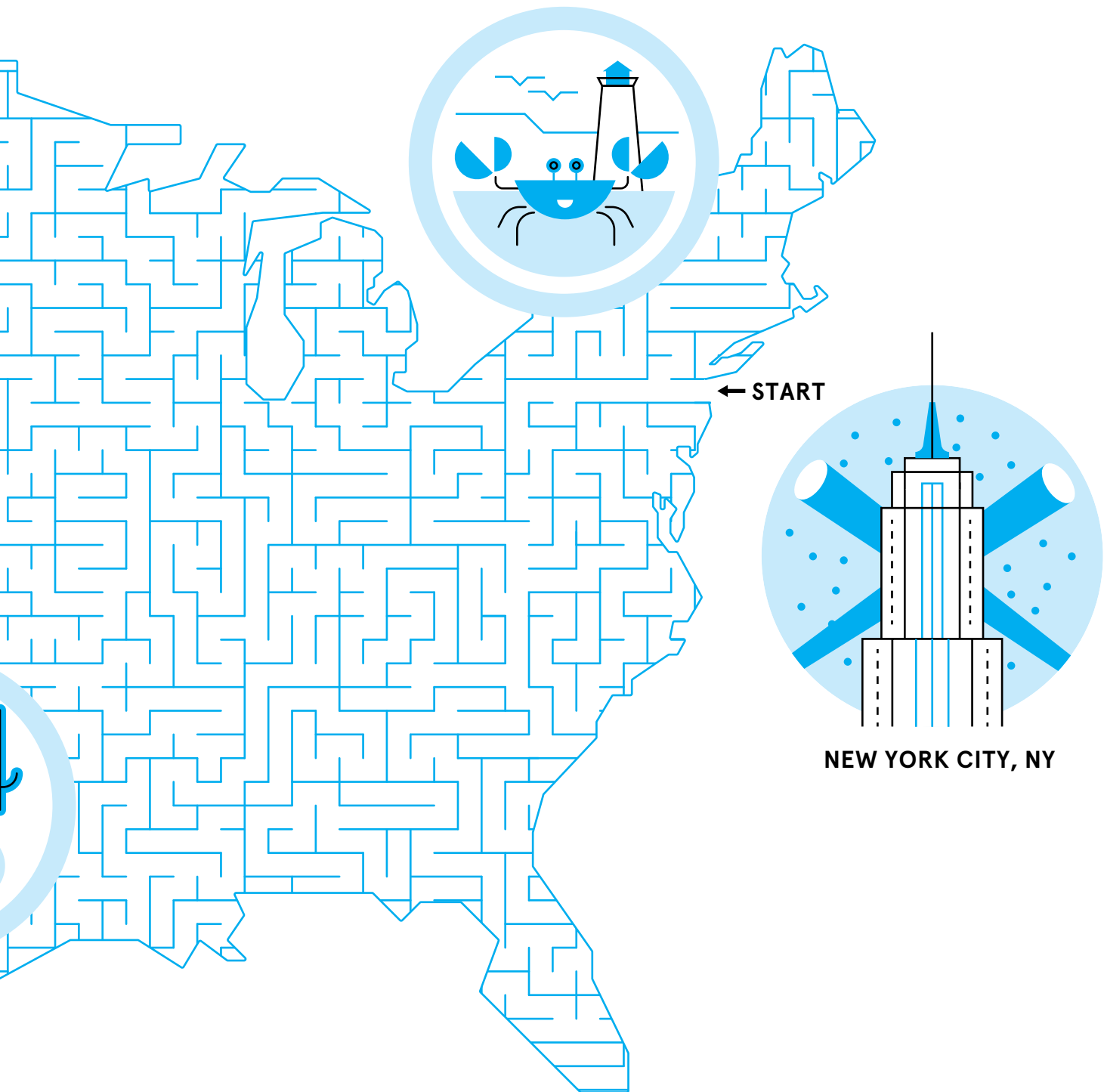
The Harlem Renaissance was an explosion of artistic, social, and intellectual development in the Harlem neighborhood of New York City between 1910 and 1930. This new community united African American scholars, musicians, poets, dancers, and artists to share what it meant to be black in America.



Journey from New York City to Los Angeles



In 1934, William Grant Still moved from New York City to Los Angeles, where he composed and arranged music for films. He was also the first African American to conduct a prominent American orchestra when he led the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl. Help him find his way from NYC to LA!



Anatomy of a Trumpet

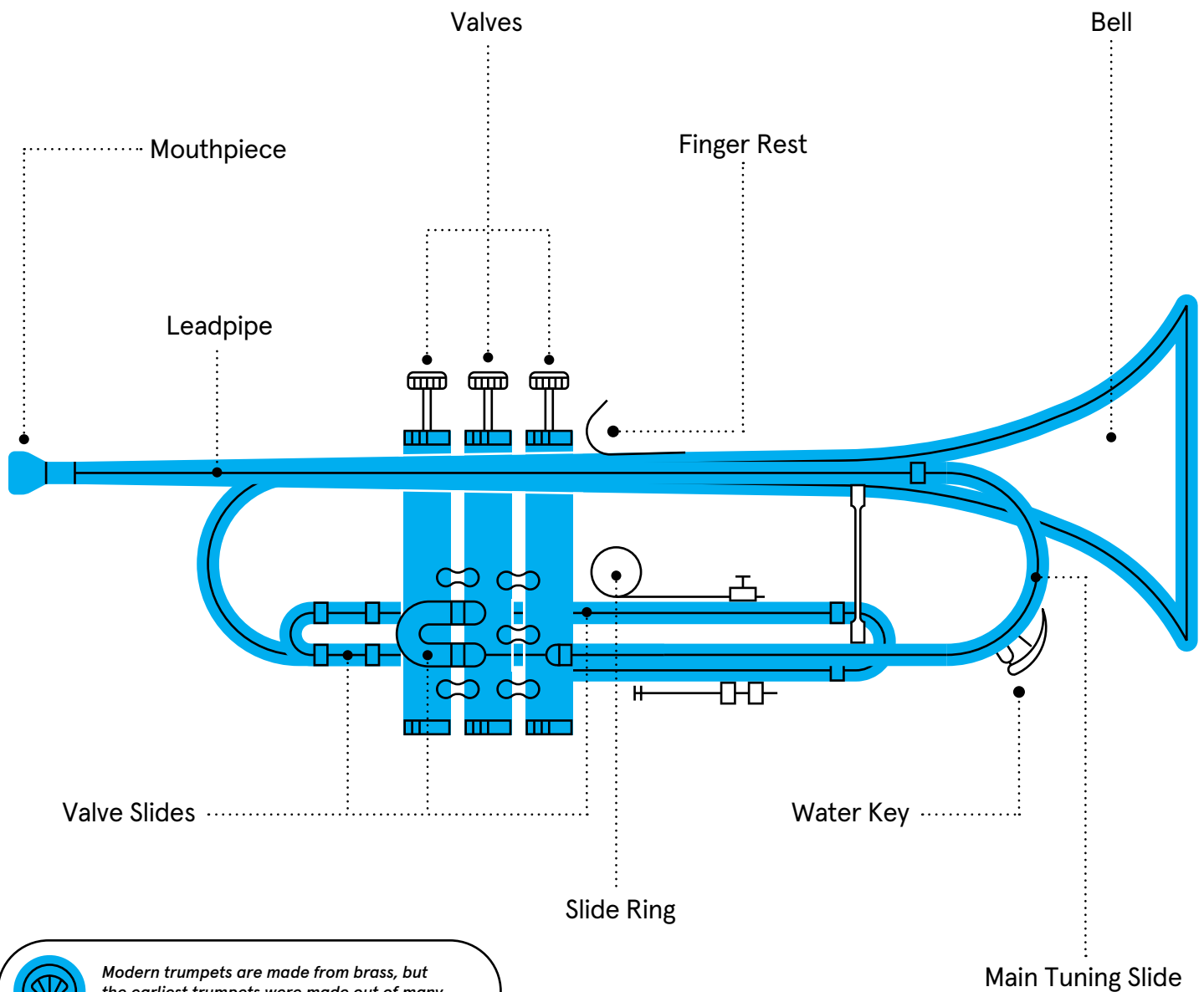
The trumpet is a brass instrument commonly used in classical and jazz ensembles. It is played by blowing air into the mouthpiece and making a “buzzing” sound with the lips. A trumpet player can change the pitch or notes of the instrument by pressing the valves and adjusting the tuning slide.



A trumpet may seem short, but it contains over 4 feet of tubing that is twice bent into a long, rounded shape.



Trumpet players sometimes put a mute in the bell to alter the sound of the instrument.



Modern trumpets are made from brass, but the earliest trumpets were made out of many different materials, including shells and wood.

I've Got the Blues

When William Grant Still moved to New York City, he worked for W.C. Handy, one of the most famous blues songwriters and bandleaders. He incorporated some of the characteristics of blues music into his “Afro-American” Symphony, including a melody from Handy’s song “St. Louis Blues.”

Blues music provides a way for people to tell a story and share emotions. These stories are often about sadness and struggle, but also offer some hope and determination for overcoming the challenges. Some blues music, like in Still’s Symphony, tells a story only through the music. Other blues songs include words or lyrics.

Use the template below to write your own blues lyrics using a blues AAB pattern.

Blues Lyrics Pattern:

A | Phrase 1: The problem

Oh, I wish this rain would stop so I could go outside and play.

A | Phrase 2: Repeat the problem

Oh, I wish this rain would stop so I could go outside and play.

B | Phrase 3: A comment on the problem or a resolution

I think I now see the sun shining. It’s gonna be a happy day.

MY TOPIC

This could be something that is difficult during your day or a problem that you have encountered.

MY BLUES LYRICS

A	Phrase 1: The problem	
A	Phrase 2: Repeat the problem	
B	Phrase 3: A comment on the problem or a resolution	

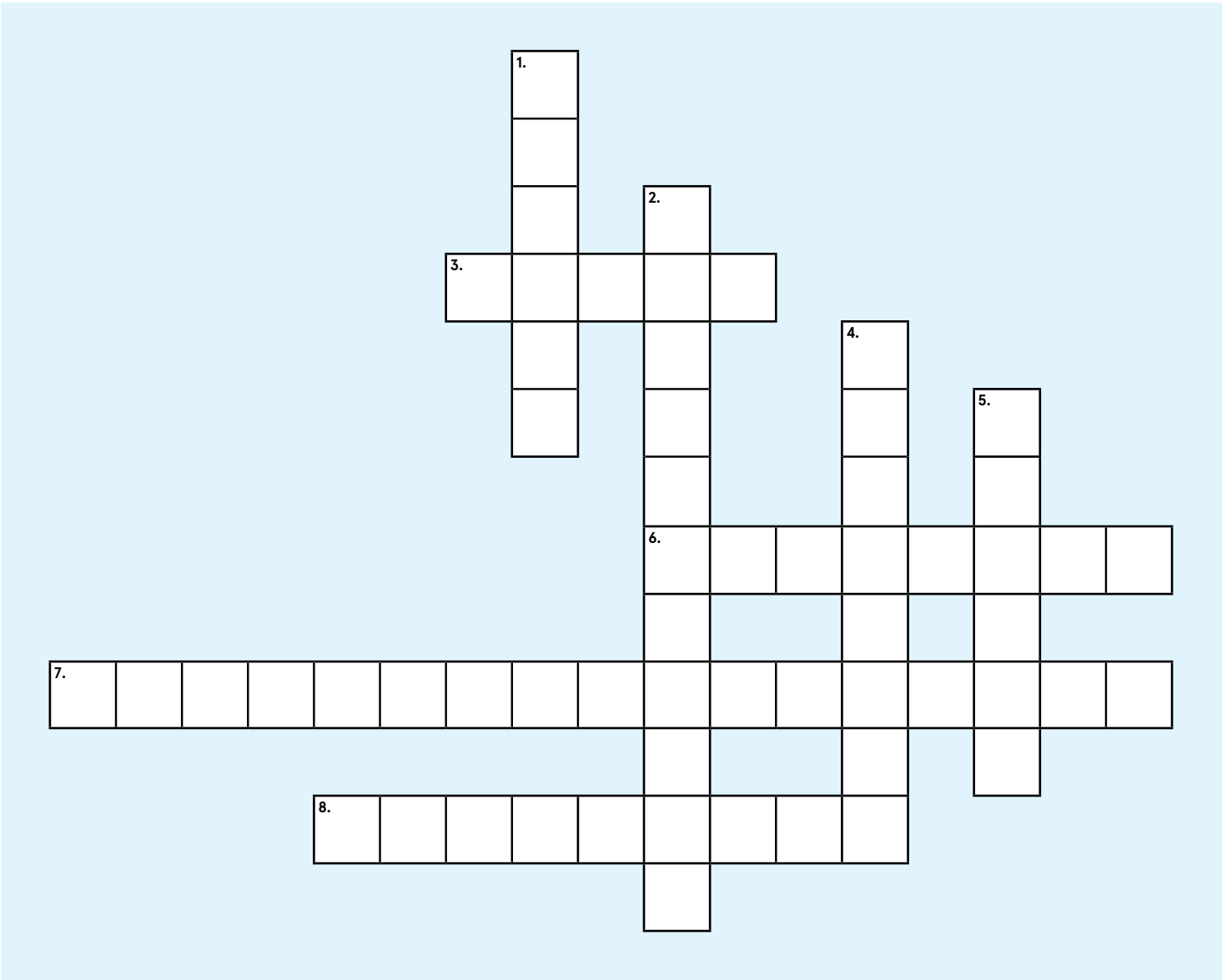
MY BLUES MUSIC

What sounds does your blues song have? Does the melody sound sad or hopeful?

What instruments will play your blues song?

Crossword
Puzzle

Put your knowledge of the Harlem Renaissance to the test,
and take on our crossword puzzle.



ACROSS

- 3. A popular style of music with roots in African American folk music. Sometimes refers to a feeling of sadness.
- 6. A large-scale piece of music for an orchestra.
- 7. A famous composer and conductor during the Harlem Renaissance.
- 8. A person who leads the orchestra.

DOWN

- 1. A neighborhood in New York City where many African Americans settled during the 1920s.
- 2. A word that means “rebirth” and describes the African American art and culture movement of the 1920s.
- 4. A person who writes music.
- 5. A string instrument that William Grant Still learned to play at age 15.

Answer Key
Across: 3. Blues; 6. Symphony;
7. William Grant Still; 8. Conductor
Down: 1. Harlem; 2. Renaissance;
4. Composer; 5. Violin