



Clarence Cameron White

Clarence Cameron White (August 10, 1880 – June 30, 1960) was an African American neo-romantic composer and concert violinist. Dramatic works by the composer were his best-known, such as the incidental music for the play *Tambour* and the opera *Ouanga*. During the first decades of the twentieth century, White was considered the foremost violinist of his race.

Born in Clarksville, Tennessee to James W. White, a doctor and school principal, and Jennie Scott White, a violinist who studied at Oberlin Conservatory of music, his father died when he was only two years old. He played concerts widely during the 1912-1923 period, after which he devoted his career to teaching. His early compositions were conventional salon pieces, but he later turned to African-American folk music as a source of inspiration.

His last teaching position was as director of music at Hampton Institute from 1931-1935. White remained active in concerts, composing and arranging music from his home and studio in New York until his death.