

WINFRED KEMP PAPERS

Processed by the United States Marine Band Library and Archives

USMB

Washington, D.C.

2018

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Finding aid encoded by Marine Band Library and Archives, 2018

Collection Summary

Title: Winfred Kemp papers

Span Dates: 1920s-1998

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1930-1945)

Accession No.: A1998-3

Creator: Kemp, Winfred, 1903-1968

Extent: 1 box, 1 oversize envelope ; 0.02 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Repository: Library and Archives, U.S. Marine Band, Washington, D.C.

Summary: Winfred Kemp was a cornetist who joined the Parris Island Marine Band in 1925, then joined the US Marine Band in 1930 and served until 1945. A popular soloist, he underwent lip surgery in 1943, and while recovering took up composing. This collection consists of photographs, programs, clippings, articles, recordings, and collected literature about the Marine Band.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and occupations, and are listed alphabetically therein.

Names:

Kemp, Winfred

United States Marine Band

Subjects:

Cornet

Military Bands--American

United States Marine Band--History

Parris Island (S.C.)

Washington, D.C.

Occupations:

Musicians

Administrative Information

Provenance

Gift of Calvin L. Kemp, 1998

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Processing History

SSgt Jane Cross completed processing in 1998 and created an initial finding aid. Revisions in accordance with *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*, 2nd Edition were suggested by Melissa E. Wertheimer in 2018. MGySgt Jane Cross coded the finding aid for EAD2002 format in 2018.

Related Material

The Dale L. Harpham papers (A1989-2) also contain materials related to the history of the Marine Band.

Copyright Status

Materials from the Winfred Kemp papers are governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.) and other applicable international copyright laws. Permission to publish, quote, or reproduce must be secured from the repository and the copyright holder.

Access and Restrictions

The Winfred Kemp papers are open to research. Researchers must contact the Marine Band Library and Archives to schedule a research appointment.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [item, date, container number], Winfred Kemp papers, Marine Band Library and Archives, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Winfred Kemp was born in Indianapolis, Indiana, on June 29, 1903. His father directed the local Nazarene Church Band and gave Kemp his first cornet lessons. Without any further formal instruction, Kemp educated himself and joined the Parris Island Marine Band in 1925. He joined the US Marine Band in 1930 under Captain Taylor Branson. He began playing cornet solos within two years, and quickly became a popular soloist with the "Dream Hour" radio audience and on the band's national concert tours. While recovering from lip surgery in 1943, Kemp wrote the cornet solo *Fantasia Capriccioso*. He was also talented as a vocalist, and was called upon at times to sing with the band or in local churches. Upon his retirement in 1945, Kemp moved back to Indiana and enjoyed employment as a farm equipment salesman. He also played in a dance band until his teeth got so short that he could no longer play. Kemp married Geneva Allene Hedges who, despite being deaf, played piano. She sometimes accompanied Kemp when he sang. Because of their mutual love of music, their marriage survived her bouts with clinical depression. They had one son Calvin, born five years before Kemp retired from the Marine Band. Winfred Kemp died in Sunman, IN of a heart attack on December 30, 1968.

Scope and Content Note

The Winfred Kemp papers document the military band career of cornetist, vocalist, and composer Winfred Kemp. The collection contains concert programs, photographs, clippings, articles, recordings, and collected literature about the Marine Band. Programs include Marine Band tour programs, concert programs, and programs from National Christmas Tree Lightings. Programs from several special events in the Washington, DC area are also present, including memorial services and a cornerstone-laying event. The clippings cover Marine Band tours and photographs feature Kemp and family members. The collection also includes literature and documentation collected by Kemp about the Marine Band and US Marine Corps, including a 1925 recruitment booklet, a music manual, and personnel rosters. The audio cassette is a compilation of "Dream Hour" radio broadcasts and home recordings of Kemp playing the cornet and singing.

Arrangement

This collection is organized into five series:

- I. Photographs, circa 1920s, 1998, and undated
- II. Programs, 1930 - 1944, and undated
- III. Manuals and Literature, 1925 - 1935
- IV. Clippings, 1930 - 1955
- V. Correspondence, Rosters, and Other, 1939 - 1945, 1997, and undated

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	I. Photographs, circa 1920s, 1998, and undated Five photographs depict Kemp's association with the Parris Island Marine Band and the US Marine Band in Washington, DC, as well as family members at the time of the donation of the Winfred Kemp Papers. List arranged chronologically.
BOX-FOLDER 1/1	Parris Island Marine Band circa 1920s grouped informally in front of Union Station
BOX-FOLDER 1/1	Parris Island Marine Band 1926 formal photograph
BOX-FOLDER 1/1	Kemp, Calvin 1998 Son of Winfred standing in front of his parent's former house in Hyattsville, MD, dated September 15, 1998
BOX-FOLDER 1/1	Kemp, Marlene Lowell 1988 Daughter-in-law of Winfred standing with Chief Librarian MGySgt Michael Ressler, dated September 15, 1998
BOX-FOLDER 1/1	Marine Band undated Marching at the Confederate Veteran's Reunion in Jackson, Mississippi

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Container	Contents
BOX 1	<h3>II. Programs, 1930 - 1944, and undated</h3> <p>Nineteen programs comprise this series, providing evidence of Kemp's skill as a soloist is apparent in a variety of settings, from concerts to memorial services. List arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX-FOLDER 1/2	Marine Band 1930 Tour program November 8, 1930, St. Louis Arena. Kemp performed solo on the afternoon concert, V. Bach's "Hungarian Melodies."
BOX-FOLDER 1/2	Concert Program 1931 Washington, DC. Kemp played his own composition "Fantasie Capriccioso," May 25, 1931.
BOX-FOLDER 1/2	Concert Program 1931 Washington, DC. Kemp performs in a trio for Henneberg's "Triplets of the Finest" on July 13, 1931.
BOX-FOLDER 1/2	Marine Band 1930 Tour program from Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, PA. Kemp performed on evening program with his "Fantasie Capriccioso." September 14, 1931.
BOX-FOLDER 1/2	Marine Band 1931 Tour program from the Grand Rapids, Michigan, Armory. Kemp performed on the evening program with his "Fantasie Capriccioso." October 1, 1931.
BOX-FOLDER 1/2	Calgary Episcopal Church 1931 Washington, DC. Kemp played for the Offertory on November 8, 1931.
BOX-FOLDER 1/2	National Christmas Tree Lighting 1931 Marine Band played for the lighting of the National Community Christmas Tree on December 24, 1931.
BOX-FOLDER 1/2	Memorial Service 1932 Program for the anniversary of the U.S.S. Maine's destruction. Kemp played "The Song that Reached My Heart" at Fort Myer, VA, Riding Hall on February 15, 1932.
BOX-FOLDER 1/2	Marine Band 1932

Container	Contents
	Concert program for the laying the cornerstone of the Supreme Court Building in Washington, DC, on October 13, 1932.
BOX-FOLDER 1/2	Marine Band Dance Orchestra 1935 Program from US Chamber of Commerce in Washington, DC. for a reception and ball; Kemp was the featured vocalist. March 2, 1935.
BOX-FOLDER 1/2	William Penn High School 1935 York City, PA. Capt. Taylor Branson and Kemp traveled to perform with the York City Band on May 14, 1935.
BOX-FOLDER 1/2	Marine Band 1937 Tour Program from Memorial Park in Elizabethville, PA. Kemp on evening program with "Napoli" by Bellstedt. September 26, 1937
BOX-FOLDER 1/2	National Christmas Tree Lighting 1937 Washington, DC. Kemp had a solo in "Cantique de Noel." He noted in the program that President Roosevelt thought his solo fine, and his son Franklin, Jr. never took his eyes off Kemp. December 24, 1937.
BOX-FOLDER 1/2	DAR Constitution Hall 1938 Washington, DC. Program for 37th Annual Meeting where Kemp played "One Sweetly Solemn Thought" on February 27, 1938
BOX-FOLDER 1/2	Marine Band 1938 Tour program from Central High School where Kemp played "The Lost Chord" on October 6, 1938.
BOX-FOLDER 1/2	Memorial Service 1939 Program from the US House of Representatives in Washington, DC. Kemp played "Taps" on May 30, 1939.
BOX-FOLDER 1/2	Memorial Service 1944 Program from Arlington National Cemetery. Kemp played "Taps" on May 30, 1944.
BOX-FOLDER 1/2	Pan American Union Hall of the Americas undated Washington, DC. Kemp played "Indiana" by Maiquez.
BOX-FOLDER 1/2	Pan American Union Esplanade undated Washington, DC. Kemp played a solo on "Tabare" by Schiuma on September 13, no year indicated.

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Container	Contents
BOX 1	III. Manuals and Literature, 1925 - 1935 Four copies of the USMC Manual for Drummers, Trumpeters, and Fifers with various clippings included is joined by a recruiting booklet and Marine Band concert flyer. List arranged chronologically.
BOX-FOLDER 1/3	Marine Band Recruiting Booklet 1925 Includes the history of the organization and a message from Calvin Coolidge.
BOX-FOLDER 1/3	Marine Band Flyer 1930 Brochure/flyer announcing an upcoming concert at Phoenix, AZ, High School Stadium. Inside is a brief history and praises, on the back a photo of Kemp. October 28, 1930.
BOX-FOLDER 1/3	Manual for Drummers, Trumpeters, and Fifers in the US Marine Corps 1935 Inside the front cover is an inscription from the compiler, Col Lem Shepherd to Kemp, who contributed the chapter on the trumpet.
BOX-FOLDER 1/3	Manual for Drummers, Trumpeters, and Fifers in the US Marine Corps 1935 Inside is a clipping of Col Lem Shepherd as the new Commandant of the Marine Corps.
BOX-FOLDER 1/3	Manual for Drummers, Trumpeters, and Fifers in the US Marine Corps 1935 Inside is a clipping of Col Lem Shepherd with Commandant Clifton Cates.
BOX-FOLDER 1/3	Manual for Drummers, Trumpeters, and Fifers in the US Marine Corps 1935 Inside is a clipping of Col Lem Shepherd with two other generals in Okinawa.

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BOX 1	IV. Clippings, 1930 - 1955
	Seven clippings concerning Marine Band performances and history. List arranged chronologically.
ENVELOPE oversize	Concert September 16, 1930 Newspaper clipping of the Marine Band at Chicago Stadium. Chicago Tribune.
ENVELOPE oversize	Concert October 3, 1930 A full page photo montage concerning a Marine Band concert at a Tabernacle in Salt Lake City. Salt Lake Tribune.
ENVELOPE oversize	Concert October 6, 1939 A full page photo montage concerning a concert by the Marine Band at the New Orleans Municipal Auditorium. Right side creased. New Orleans States.
BOX-FOLDER 1/4	Marine Band tour schedule October 23-25, 1939
ENVELOPE oversize	DAR Continental Congress April 16, 1940 Photos include Kemp sounding assembly, audience, participants, and children. Very ragged. Washington, DC Times Herald.
BOX-FOLDER 1/4	Marine Band, history 1944 Article featuring Dale Harpham and historical information about the Marine Band. Many photos, including one of Kemp eating ice cream. The Leatherneck. Photocopy.
BOX-FOLDER 1/4	Marine Band, history 1955 An article celebrating the age and importance of the Marine Band. Photo of members practicing, and of the soloists with Capt. Albert Schoepper. Sunday Star, Indianapolis, IN.

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BOX 1	V. Correspondence, Rosters, and Other, 1939 - 1945, 1997, and undated This series includes a thank you note for a solo Kemp performed, two Marine Band rosters, Kemp's release from active duty, and 1 audio cassette tape (circa 1997). Note: recordings from 1945, 1997, and undated were transferred to the accessioned recording medium. List arranged chronologically.
BOX-FOLDER 1/5	Taps 1939 Correspondence from the Chairman of the House Committee on Memorials to Kemp for his rendition of "Taps" on 30 May 30, 1939. With envelop.
BOX-FOLDER 1/5	Roster ca. 1944 Marine Band members, phone numbers, and telephone numbers.
BOX-FOLDER 1/5	Roster ca. 1944 Marine Band members, phone numbers, and telephone numbers.
BOX-FOLDER 1/5	Certificate of release from active duty 1945 For Winfred Kemp. August 31, 1945.>
CASSETTE audio	Carnival of Venice 1945 by Herbert L. Clark. Kemp performing (after a lip operation) on NBC. Record cracked.
CASSETTE audio	England's Rose 1997 Elton John performing his new song at Princess Diana's funeral
CASSETTE audio	Whistle While you Wark undated> [Whistle While you Work] Kemp singing the chorus (with band accompaniment) from the movie Snow White. Dream Hour recording from Sousa Hall.
CASSETTE audio	Panis Angelicus undated Kemp performs cornet solo
CASSETTE audio	Fantasia Capriccioso undated Written and played by Kemp.
CASSETTE audio	Star Dust undated

Container	Contents
	Performed with dance band, Kemp singing.
CASSETTE audio	Chief Executive (Snafu) March, The undated> Written by Kemp while recovering from lip operation, dedicated to President Truman.
CASSETTE audio	Semper Fidelis undated> Kemp's wife playing piano and Kemp singing. A family gathering at Gene Kuhn's house.