

Leona May Smith

Brooklyn, NY

- 1914 Leona May Smith is born in Bridgeport, CT (son Frank's birth certificate).
- 1922 Her father William, an amateur musician, buys her a cornet after she sees one and begs for it (*Ridgewood Times*, 1941).
- 1924 Leona first performs for WNAC radio in Boston.
- 1926 Playing cornet with Goldman's Band.
- 1929 Plays first trumpet with the Boston Women's Symphony.
- 1932 George Seuffert is teaching at the Grover Cleveland High School and conducting his band at Forest Park. Leona is a 17 year old soloist playing with him and a pupil of Walter M. Smith of Boston. Del Staigers, one of Seuffert's teachers, would conduct his "Carnival of Venice" with Leona as soloist.
- 1935 Now married to George F. Seuffert (b.1912) who she met when he was conducting the Goldman Band. Living at #1666 Linden St, Brooklyn, NY (census) and playing a King cornet (photo 1).
- 1938 Leona is a member of the "Troubadorables" (*Long Island Daily News*).
- 1940 Same address in Brooklyn. George is a high school music teacher and Leona has no occupation (census). Playing a Bach cornet (photo 2).
- 1941 Leona is described as "blonde, blue-eyed & beautiful" as well as "the world's greatest woman cornet player." Walter M. Smith was a former teacher and she had many pupils at her Linden St home (*Ridgewood Times*, Jan 10).
- 1943 Leona is trumpet and cornet soloist with the Chautauqua Symphony and at Radio City Music Hall (news article).
- 1954 Son Frank is born in Newport, VT in June; probably while involved with the "Music For Youth" program there that she and her husband founded in the late 1940s.
- 1955 Leona & George found the Seuffert Band and often played at Forest Park in Queens (1971 article).
- 1950s to 1970s NY newspapers are full of articles and announcements of Leona as soloist, composer, and arranger as well as being a co-conductor for the Seuffert Band



- 1961 Photo 3, page 1 is from a record album.
- 1967 George retires from teaching in school (1971 article).
- 1971 The Seuffert Band now in its 16th year (news article).
- 1973 They move to Plymouth, MA.
- 1995 George dies in Florida.
- 1999 Leona dies, leaving a legacy in trumpet performance & instruction.

