

# Leona May Smith

Brooklyn, NY

- 1914 Leona May Smith 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 from record album
- 1967 George retires from teaching in school (1971 article)
- 1971 the Seuffert Band now in its 16<sup>th</sup> year (news article)
- 1973 they move to Plymouth, MA
- 1995 George dies in Florida
- 1999 Leona dies leaving a legacy in trumpet performance & instruction

