

Karl King was an ingenious composer of music for concert and military bands writing nearly 300 marches, overtures, and novelty numbers played by bands all over the world. One of his great accomplishments was helping to start the American Bandmasters Association as well as a branch within his own state, the Iowa Bandmasters Association. King was also involved early on in composing special music for the growing school band programs in America. He created marches designed specifically for school bands, as well other types of selections such as waltzes and overtures. He became a popular choice as a conductor at events in which many marching bands perform together, known as "massed bands." At one such gathering at the University of Michigan, some 13,000 high-school musicians played together under his baton. King also was active as a contest judge in events for high-school marching bands.