



## **EMME KEMP—PIANIST, COMPOSER, SINGER, ACTRESS, SPEAKER**

Emme Kemp wears many hats, as Bandleader, Broadway Composer, Singer, Pianist and researcher of American music. Chicago born Emme wrote original music & lyrics for and performed with the original Broadway production of *Bubblin brown Sugar*. She is at home with blues and gospel and the broad-based culturally inclusive music that prepared her as a teenager for coaching with the eminent pianist Egon Petri on the west coast. After moving to New York, rag time master Eubie Blake included Emme in his 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday concert at Harvard and chose her to record his music on his EBM label.

Emme performed her original songs on *The Guiding Light* and *Captain Kangaroo*, appeared on *Entertainment Tonight* and *Oh Boy, Babies!* On NBC. In Woody Allen's film *Sweet and Lowdown* Emme is shown in jam session scenes with Sean Penn. She has appeared in Dick Hyman's *Jazz in July* series at the 92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y, the Schomburg Center's *Women in Jazz Festival* and received an *Audelco Pioneer Award* for her theatre contributions.

This former three year military woman was commissioned through the *Chicago Defender* to create her *Echoes Out of Time* theatre piece. She received awards from the *National Endowment for the Arts* and has been honored by *IWJ (International Women in Jazz, founded by Cobi Narita)*.

Emme independently produced her own original songs and music which are featured on her latest CD, *Try A Little Tenderness*.

This international performer studied at *Northwestern University, Berklee College of Music* and *New York University*. She played at *Carnegie Hall* with the *NYU Jazz Ensemble* under *Jimmy Giuffre* and has appeared on numerous college campuses and at jazz festivals. Emme's lectures and writings form a significant overview on popular culture.

“ . . . one of the most accomplished female multitalented artists in the business.” —BALTIMORE SUN

“ . . . an unusually sensitive understanding.” —John S. Wilson, *New York Times*



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Emme Kemp has filled the shoes of such diverse musical artists as Jay McShann, Odetta, along with Jackie and Roy Kral.

As a bandleader she has hired the creative likes Paul Quinichette, Ernie Wilkins, Arvell Shaw and many others. She played with the U Jazz Ensemble under the direction of Jimmy Guiffre at Carnegie Hall, and earlier studied at Northwestern University and Berklee School of Music. She served in the U.S. Army and produced shows for Special Services and was assigned to the Judge Advocate's office.

A former 3-year-old prodigy who grew up with the good time gospel and blues of Chicago, Emme recorded with the ragtime piano man Eubie Blake. Prior to her move to New York, Ms. Kemp lived in California and coached with the eminent pianist Egon Petri. Her jazz anthology goes from classic to modern. She has appeared on numerous college campuses, lectures, poetry and writings, based on a significant overview of popular culture.

In Woody Allen's film "Sweet and Low Down," Emme is shown in the Chicago jazz session scenes with Sean Penn. Emme Kemp "live" lays down the rhythm from festivals in Martinique, Italy's Umbria, Monte Carlo's Sporting club, and Lincoln 92<sup>nd</sup> Street & to the Schomburg Center. Emme Kemp is All Music was featured as composer and actress in Broadway's hit musical Bubbling Brown Sugar.

Her keyboard narrative "Someone To Sing To" premiered in Berlin in 1992 co-starring Queen Yahna and a cast of thirteen. Ms. Kemp also has created a various versions of "Someone To Sing To" geared to the size and audience for any venue, allowing her to share this wonderful musical theatre experience everywhere.

Commissioned theater piece "Echoes Out of Time" premiered at Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry. "The Ballad of Box Brown" followed in Philadelphia Emme Kemp received awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, ASCAP, NANBPW, and IWJ.

(Emme Kemp cont'd)

New York Post said of her "Her lyrics bear distinctive identity; blending wry, tough introspection and engaging soft heartedness."

The New York Times noted ". . .an unusually sensitive understanding."

Emme performed her concept songs for children on TV's Captain Kangaroo and other recent originals on The Guiding Light. Emme sings and plays on her debut CD "Someone To Sing To" featuring 7 original compositions.

Researcher of American music, Emme Kemp initiated the 100 Anniversary celebration of W.C. Handy's birth at NYC's Overseas Press Club and was recently acknowledged at the New York Press Conference announcing the US Congressional resolution designating 2003 as the Year of The Blues.

Emme Kemp is all music. Broadway composer-actress ("Bubbling Brown Sugar"), Chicago born, Emme Kemp is at home with blues and gospel and the broad based culturally inclusive music that prepared her as a teenager for coaching with the eminent pianist Egon Petri on the West Coast. Some time after moving to New York, rag time master Eubie Blake included the young Emme Kemp in his 92nd birthday concert at Harvard.

Eubie Blake chose her to record his music on his EBM label. She performed her original songs on THE GUIDING LIGHT and CAPTAIN KANGAROO, appeared on ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT and OH BOY, BABIES! on NBC. In Woody Allen's film SWEET AND LOWDOWN Emme is shown in jam session scenes with Sean Penn. She has appeared in Dick Hyman's Jazz in July series at the 92nd Street Y, the Schomburg Center's Women in Jazz Festival and received an Audelco Pioneer Award for her theatre contributions.

This former piano prodigy, three year military woman and international artist was commissioned through the Chicago Defender to create her Echoes Out of Time theatre piece, received an National Endowment for the Arts award as well as awards from IWJ and the NAB&P Women.

An American music researcher, Ms. Kemp studied at Northwestern University, Berklee College of Music and New York University. She played at Carnegie Hall with the NYU Jazz Ensemble under Jimmy Giuffre and has appeared on numerous college campuses and at festivals. Emme's lectures and writings form a significant overview on popular culture.