

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with David Kneupper

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
*IHPA Legacy* Oral History project

Interview # HP-A-L-2015-043

David Kneupper, who composed over three hours of music for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *IHPA legacy* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Sep 17, 2015    Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Mark R. DePue, Director of Oral History

Technical Support (cameraman, etc.): Sam Cooper and the ALPLM Tech Department

Transcription by: \_\_\_\_\_

Edited by: \_\_\_\_\_

Transcript  
being processed

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_    Total Time: 1:31 + 1:24 / 1.52 + 1.4 = 2.92 hrs.

Session 1: Audio interview on early life, career, and composing music for ALPM

Session 2: Video of Kneupper's presentation, plus question and answer period

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on December 9, 2015.

The interview is archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

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# Abstract

David Kneupper, *IHPA Legacy*, HP-A-L-2015-043

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** David Kneupper was born on September 14th, 1959 in San Antonio, Texas, where he grew up. He received a Bachelor of Music Education from Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas, and a Masters in Music Theory and Ph.D. in Fine Arts (Music Composition) from Texas Tech University. David knew from a very young age that he wanted to compose music, and began his professional career when in 1984 he heard a demonstration of a Kurzweil K250 and decided to use the new electronic musical instrument for his Ph.D. dissertation. Shortly after that, he was approached by an advertising agent who was intrigued by the possibilities, and asked David to compose twenty-nine seconds of music for an ad. David increasingly found himself writing music commercially, and finished his Ph.D. in 1987 while also building a professional resume.

David became a composer with Pegasus Studios, Tallahassee, FL, then for Universal Studios, where he soon was composing music for theme park attractions under construction at Universal Studios in Orlando, Florida. David met Bob Rogers, president of BRC Imagination Arts, in 1995, and since that time has done extensive work with BRC Imagination Arts, Rogers' company. In 2003, Rogers approached David about writing a score for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, for which Bob's company was developing an ambitious set of exhibits. Bob had very specific expectations for the score, which eventually resulted in over three hours of music. Bob wanted the music for individual exhibits to mix artistically with adjacent exhibits. In other words, David was challenged to write three different songs for three separate exhibits that would still be harmonious when played at the same time. For the next 15 months David worked on his score, writing for the two theater presentations plus the many exhibits that the public now hears throughout the museum. Since that time, David has kept very busy, but the experience of writing music for the Lincoln Presidential Museum remains one of the highlights of his career.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum; Bob Rogers; BRC Imagination Arts; composing music for a museum; John Miceli; David Weiss; Universal Studios theme parks; Kurzweil K250; Texas State University; Gustav Mahler; Beethoven's 9th Symphony; THEA Award for Outstanding Achievement

**Note to the Reader:** Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, interviewee and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein. We leave these for the reader to judge.

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