

Finding Aid  
**Lucia B. "Kim" Kimber Files**  
**Collection #2024.13.21**  
**1980-81, 1996, 2011**

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**OVERVIEW of the COLLECTION**

Collection Number:	2024.13.21
Title:	Lucia B. "Kim" Kimber Collection
Donor / Creator:	Kathy Lewis
Dates:	Inclusive dates of the materials in the collection: 1980-81, 1996, 2011
Dates-BULK:	Not applicable
Quantity / Size:	.47 linear feet
Language of Materials:	Materials are in English.
Abstract:	Contains music catalogs and the oral herstory of Kim Kimber prepared by the Old Lesbian Oral Herstory Project (OLOHP).

**ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

Acquisition/Custodial:	Gift of Kathy Lewis, 2024
Accruals:	No accruals are expected
Custodial history:	Material acquired from Kathy Lewis.
Processed by:	The collection was processed by Maeve Pagès in 2025.
Finding Aid Creator:	Maeve Pagès, Simmons Univ. MLIS Student; edited by Mev Miller, Instigator/Lesbrarian
Physical Location:	Located at Wanderground, check CatalogIt for exact location

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## COLLECTION DETAILS

Biography/Historical Note: *NOTE: Biographical detail adapted from the Sophia Smith Collection of Women's History – visit their Finding Aid for more details*  
[findingaids.smith.edu/repositories/2/resources/891](https://findingaids.smith.edu/repositories/2/resources/891)

Lucia B. "Kim" Kimber (1932-2018) was a co-founder of the Women's Music Archives. Women's Music Archives, a feminist organization, collected recordings, memorabilia, and archival papers of women's music scene and musicians. The collection began during a summer 1975 visit to Maine, when friends introduced Kim and her friend Kathy Lewis to recordings made by Meg Christian, Alix Dobkin, and The Deadly Nightshade. ...Two months later, Kimber and Lewis attended the First Boston Women's Music Festival with a small tape deck on which they recorded the two-day long festival held at Harvard University.... Enthralled with the experience, Kimber and Lewis began attending and recording (with the artists' permission) every women's music concert they could get to. They also began collecting studio recordings, books, catalogs, clippings, flyers, posters, programs, memorabilia, newsletters, and other materials related to women's music, including information on artists, production companies, festivals, and the women's music and comedy concert circuit.... In the fall of 1978, they created the Women's Music Archives as a non-profit organization based at Kimber's home in Fairfield, Connecticut.

According to the WMA's 1980 Catalog, "The primary function of the Women's Music Archives is to collect and preserve, for herstorical listening and research purposes, all types of materials related to women's music." The bulk of the collection focused on "woman-identified, woman-made music, primarily, though not exclusively feminist and lesbian in orientation" that "evolved as a definite entity" beginning in the early 1970s. As the collection grew, Kimber, Lewis, and Ruth Dworin added earlier recordings by women "that spoke to the issues which were of vital concern and interest to women." Their Archives was conceived as a means to preserve part of the flourishing and self-affirming lesbian-feminist culture of the day.

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In a 1980 article about the Archives for *SOJOURNER*, Kimber wrote: "Women derive strength and comfort from many various sources such as feminist literature, women's support groups, communal living situations, and women's art forms such as painting, sculpture, photography, and music.... It is certain...that women's music provides a kind of strength, support and inspiration which is found nowhere else and most certainly is not found in popular music which bombards us constantly over the airways today."

In addition to the Women's Music Archives, Kimber also participated in the "scene" through deep involvement in the North East Women's Musical Retreat (NEWMR), an organization which produced regional outdoor music festivals on Labor Day weekend from 1981 to 2000.

**Collection Scope/Contents:** This collection contains objects related to the Women's Music Archives including catalogs and cassettes as well as Kim Kimber's oral herstory recording and transcript, prepared by the Old Lesbian Oral Herstory Project (OLOHP). These items were included among the Kathy Lewis donation to Wanderground. All items are organized according to the original order from the donor.

**Subject Headings:** Boston Women's Music Festival  
Festivals  
Music  
Women's Music Archives

**Related Collections:** Kathy Lewis Collection  
NEWMR (New England/Northeast Women's Musical Retreat)

*It is Wanderground's intention to acknowledge cultural, sexual, and gender identity in donor descriptions whenever it is known. This is both to aid researchers who are undertaking projects on Lesbians with a particular self-identification and to combat universal assumptions of whiteness and dominant cultural definitions of sexuality and gender. It is not Wanderground's prerogative to assume someone's self-identification. We request that donors include their*

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*preference for specific self-identifiers if they wish to include them. [Wording borrowed from Lesbian Herstory Archives in NYC]*

#### ORGANIZATION OF THE COLLECTION

Items are organized at the folder level based on the original order of the documents, as such there are no separate series.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Item	Title	Date	Box	Folder
	Women's Music Archives Catalog	1980	1	N/A
	Women's Music Archives Catalog Supplement	1981	1	N/A
	Oral History of Kim Kimber Transcript ( <i>created by Old Lesbian Oral Herstory Project</i> )	2011	1	N/A
	Oral History of Kim Kimber CD ( <i>created by Old Lesbian Oral Herstory Project</i> )	2011	1	N/A
	Selected Music from Women's Archives cassette	1996	1	N/A
	Cassette song list	1996	1	N/A

#### RIGHTS & RESEARCHER INFORMATION

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**Preferred Citation:** All users, especially researchers or students, are requested to use the following citation format:  
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