

Brass Instruments Described

Brass instruments are defined by the bore, or size, of their tubing. They are also defined by how high or low they sound when played. They are made of brass and are sounded by the buzzing of the player's lips into a mouthpiece.

- Bugle*-** A brass instrument used by the military for signaling. It has no valves.
- Cornet*-** A soprano brass instrument very similar to the trumpet but having a slightly more conical bore. It sounds more mellow than a trumpet.
- Trumpet-** A soprano brass instrument with 4 1/2 feet in tube length. The bore of the instrument is mostly cylindrical and expands just before the bell. It has three valves.
- French Horn-**A circular brass instrument about 14 inches in diameter. It has a mouthpiece and valve levers at the top and a widely flared end or bell at the bottom.
- Flugelhorn*-** Similar to a bugle but with a larger bore and three valves.
- Tenor Trombone-** A long narrow brass instrument. It has a U shaped slide
- Bass Trombone-** Shaped like a trombone but with a slightly larger bore and more tubing. It also has a valve lever.
- Tuba-** The largest and lowest of the brass instruments. It has a long tube (18ft) that expands widely at the bell.
- Euphonium*-** A brass instrument that sounds an octave lower than the cornet or trumpet. It has about 9 feet of tubing and four valves. It is shaped like a tuba but smaller in size.
- Alto Horn*-** A brass instrument with valves and about 7 feet of tubing. It is shaped like a tuba and is smaller than the euphonium. It is used in concert and marching bands.
- Mutes-** Brass instruments use mutes to change the sound and tone color of the instrument. Types of mutes include: plunger, Harmon or wow-wow, cup, straight and hat.

*These instruments are not commonly found in orchestras.