

CHOOSING A TRUMPET AND TRUMPET EQUIPMENT

There are many brands and models of trumpets and cornets from which to choose in a variety of price ranges. The B-flat trumpet is the only instrument usually needed through high school. Unfortunately, not all trumpets are created equal. A few characteristics to look for in a quality beginner trumpet and accessories include:

1. An adjustable and offset third valve slide ring
2. A thumb ring on the first valve slide
3. Valves made of Monel metal, rather than plated metal. Monel metal lasts longer.
4. A trumpet case that holds the trumpet securely and has a separate compartment for mutes, oil, music and other objects.

It is this Professor's opinion that one of the most important characteristics of picking ANY trumpet is that the trumpet has the same amount of resistance when blown from the low register to the upper register. In other words, the trumpet is said to be "even". Believe me, no two trumpets blow alike. The second most important characteristic when choosing a trumpet or talking with a band parent about what to look for when getting a trumpet for their child is making sure the pitch of the horn is consistent and that a few notes are not excessively out of tune. It's rather obvious that if the trumpet is your major instrument, then choosing a trumpet for your students will be manageable. If the trumpet is not your major instrument, ask a colleague whose major instrument is the trumpet for their help.

Recommended Trumpets

Instruments that meet these criteria include the following:

Recommended Beginning Trumpets

Bach TR300H (ML Bore, Monel metal pistons, adjustable 3rd valve slide ring, durable.
Selmer, Bundy 1530
Holton, Collegiate model, T602
Yamaha YTR 2320TH

Recommended Advanced Trumpets

Bach, Stradivarius 180 series
Yamaha 6000 series
Schilke B1 through B7 series, S-22, S-32

All of these instruments are available in a variety of bore sizes and come with a choice of different bells and lead pipes.

Mouthpieces

Many trumpet manufacturers also make mouthpieces; some companies specialize only in mouthpieces. There are thousands of mouthpiece choices, but most standard mouthpieces suffice for both beginners and high school students.

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Larger mouthpieces generally have less edge to the sound. The cup should be fairly deep with a slightly rounded rim. As the student progresses, wider and deeper mouthpieces can be used to help increase volume and control, as well as improve tone quality.

Standard mouthpieces that work well with beginning through high school students include:

Recommended mouthpieces

Bach 5C, 7C (beginners)

Bach 3C

Schilke 14, 15

Yamaha 11C4, 164C

Mutes

The trumpet utilizes more types of mutes than any other brass instrument. Mutes are called for in virtually every style of music and are available in several price ranges. All students should own several mutes by the time they reach high school, including a straight mute, a cup mute, and a Harmon mute with a stem inserted in it for the “wah-wah” sound.

Recommended Mutes for Trumpet

Tom Crown (straight mute)

Jo-Ral (straight mute)

Leblanc (straight mute)

Denis Wick (straight mute)

Stone Line (cup mute)

Ray Robinson (cup mute)

Denis Wick (cup mute)

Harmon with stem (wah-wah mute)

Jo-Ral (wah-wah mute)

Charley Davis Mutes