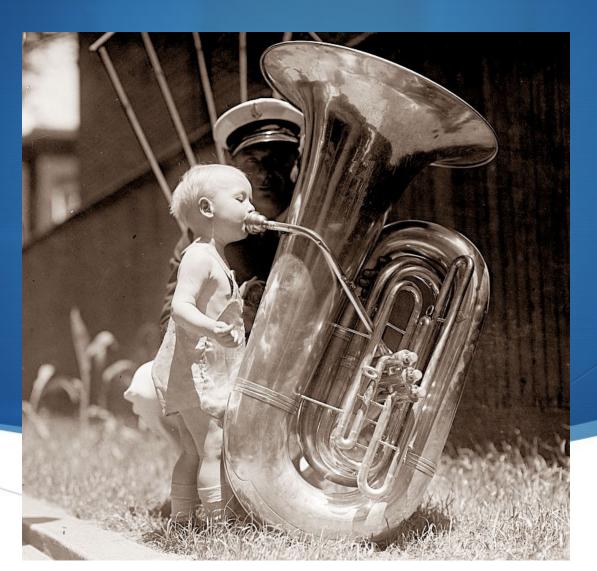
YES! THE TUBA!

A Brief Introduction to the History and Development of the Tuba



The Tuba!

The tuba is the youngest member of the brass family, and was invented in the middle of the 19th century. Its original purpose was to provide a large, low color of sound to support the European style orchestra, which was growing larger.

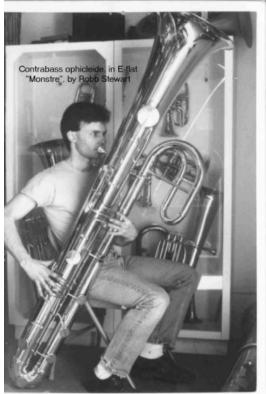
Although it is unlike them in many ways, this instrument is the deepest sounding member of the brass section, and is often associated with the trombones. It is similar to the horn and the trumpet in that it makes use of valves from 3 to as many as 6.





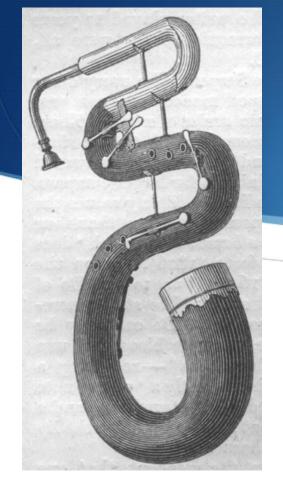
Origins...

A <u>Prussian</u> Patent No. 19 was granted to <u>Wilhelm Friedrich Wieprecht</u> and Johann Gottfried Moritz (1777–1840)^[] on September 12, 1835 for a "basstuba" in F1. The addition of valves made it possible to play the harmonic series of the instrument and still have a complete selection of notes...



The ophicleide, the predecessor of the tuba, used a bowl-shaped brass instrument mouthpiece but employed keys and tone holes similar to those of a modern saxophone. Another forerunner to the tuba was the serpent, a bass instrument that was shaped in a wavy form to make the tone holes accessible to the player. Tone holes changed the pitch by providing an intentional leak in the bugle of the instrument. By using valves to adjust the length of the bugle the tuba produced a smoother tone that eventually led to its popularity.

French instrument maker Adolphe Sax was interested in marketing systems of instruments from soprano to bass, and developed a series of brass instruments known as saxhorns. Sax's instruments gained dominance in France, and later in Britain and America. [6] Afterwards there have been many other various types of the Tuba including some with different types of valves different numbers and more.





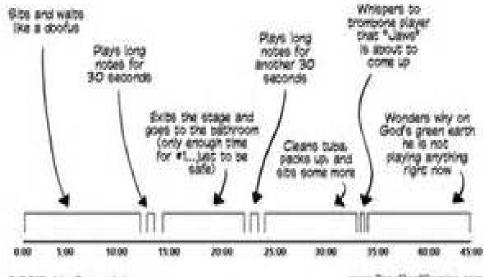


Early Use...

Probably the first major work to make use fully of the tuba was the French composer Berlioz (1803-1869) in the piece "Symphonie Fantastique" which was originally intended to feature two ophicleides, a predecessor of the tuba, but was later changed by Berlioz to include two tubas in their place after the composer had become aware of the newly invented instrument.



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Types

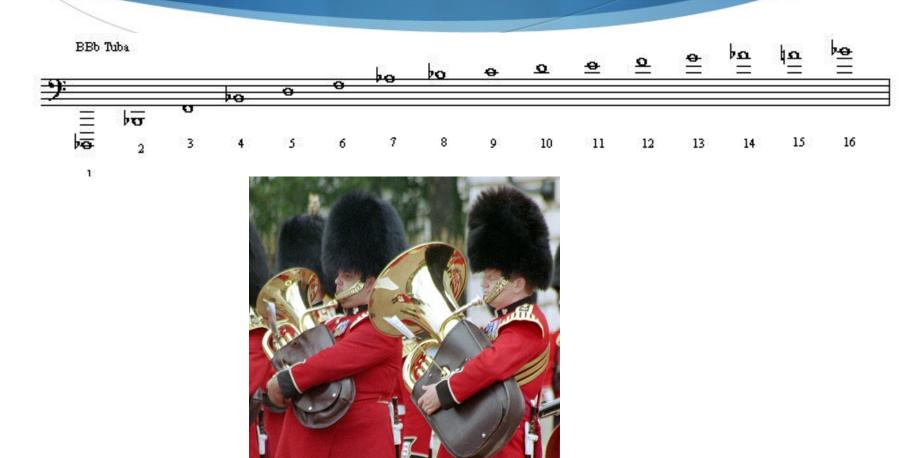
There are at least four 'bass tubas', which are commonly used and vary in size and weight:

The "bass" tuba in F – a fairly lightweight instrument long considered to be the standard orchestral bass tuba throughout Europe, and often used for chamber music in the US (I am using a bass tuba!). If you straightened all the piping, it would be the same length as the horn.



Physics

All brass instruments operate on the principal of the harmonic series. A solid, tapered tube of a fixed length with a flair at one end will produce only pitches of the series.



Types

The tuba in E-flat – this is the standard tuba in the UK and often used by orchestral players because of its more sonorous lower range and frequently used in bands.

The tuba in C – this is the default tuba used in American orchestras.

The contrabass B-flat tuba – almost exclusively used in brass bands and very common in American high school bands, primarily merely because the other band instruments are usually based on a B-flat tonality (like the trumpet).. Contrabass tuba's keyed in B flat would be 18 feet long if you straightened the pipes from end to end!



Purpose

Traditionally, the main function of the tuba was to provide a strong bass to the brass section and can often best be used to double the bass trombone at the octave below. When blown softly, the tuba blends well with the horns and is sometimes viewed as a fifth member of the horn family. When played loudly, the tubas tone is very different to that of the horn.





Sousaphone and the Marching Band

The sousaphone is still a tuba, but it wraps around the player, allowing the player to stand and walk around. It's often used for marching bands the early days of jazz, and in some forms of popular music in Mexico.







Jazz

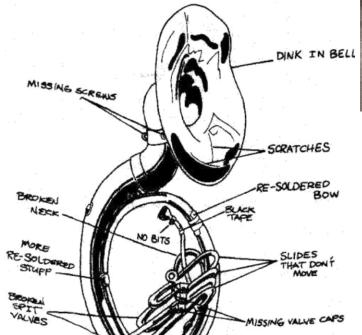
In the early 20th century, the tuba was one of the first instruments used in the new form American music that later became known as "jazz".













The Modern Tuba: Into the Twentieth Century and beyond!

In the 20th century, famous tuba players and teachers such as Bill Bell, Arnold Jacobs, Harvey Phillips, Daniel Perantoni, Glen Dimick, and others worked for respect for the tuba as versatile, legitimate musical instrument.

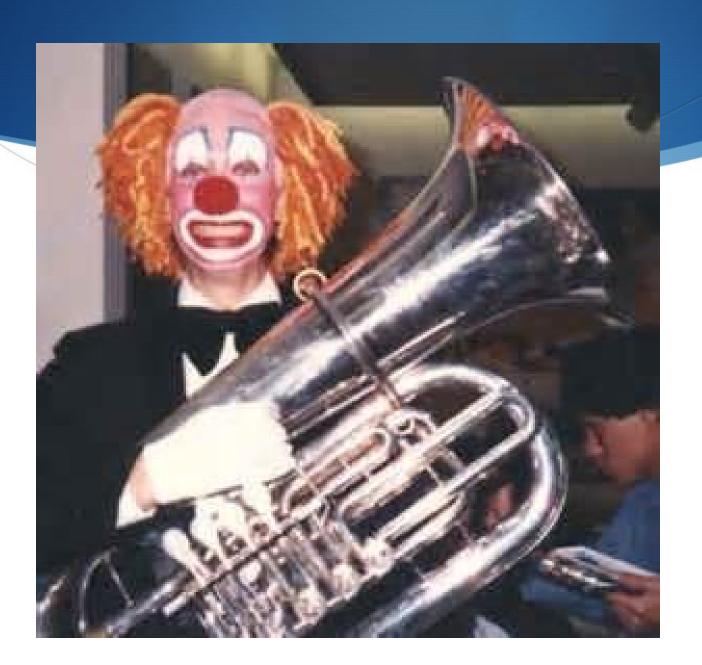












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