



A BLAST FROM THE PAST...

The History and Development of
the Trumpet!

TIMELINE

- Antiquity

In The Beginning ...

The origins of brass instruments trace back to prehistory in the form of animal horns, hollowed wood and reed vessels, and shells used for ceremonies and signaling.



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In The Beginning ...

The origins of the trumpet and horn trace back to prehistory in the form of animal horns, hollowed wood and reed vessels, and shells used for ceremonies and signaling.

As metal-working developed instruments were fashioned from bronze, copper, and later silver, and began to take on their now familiar appearance.



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- Antiquity
- The Middle Ages
(5th-15th centuries)

The Middle Ages

The use of the trumpet as a signaling device was solidified during the Crusades (11th – 13th centuries). Trumpets were also used in towers around fortified cities to signal the passing of the hour and other important times or events.



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The slide trumpet (*tromba da tirarsi*) was developed during the first half of the 15th century. This was essentially a straight or folded trumpet with a telescoping mouthpipe, which allowed the player to change the length of the instrument while playing.

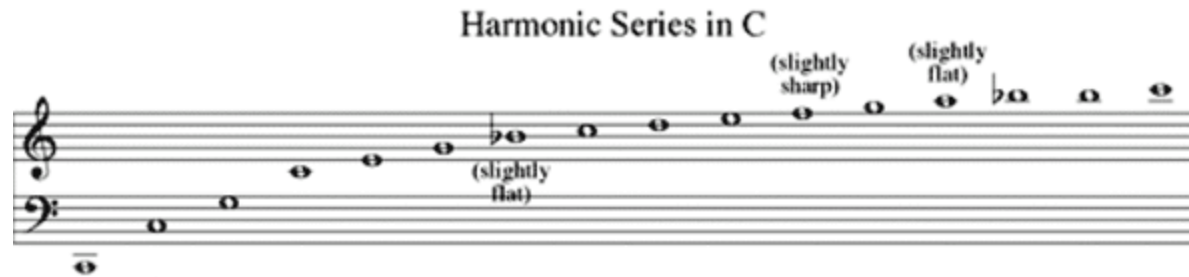


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The Baroque

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



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The purpose of the valve is to *instantly* add length to the instrument by directing the air stream through a fixed length of tubing, thereby lowering the harmonic series of the instrument – the same concept as ‘crooking’ the natural trumpet. While the concept of the valve was viable its *design* was open to debate.

The first valve was invented in Berlin by Heinrich Stölzel in 1815.



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The Valve Era!

Freidrich Blühmel's box valve, 1818.

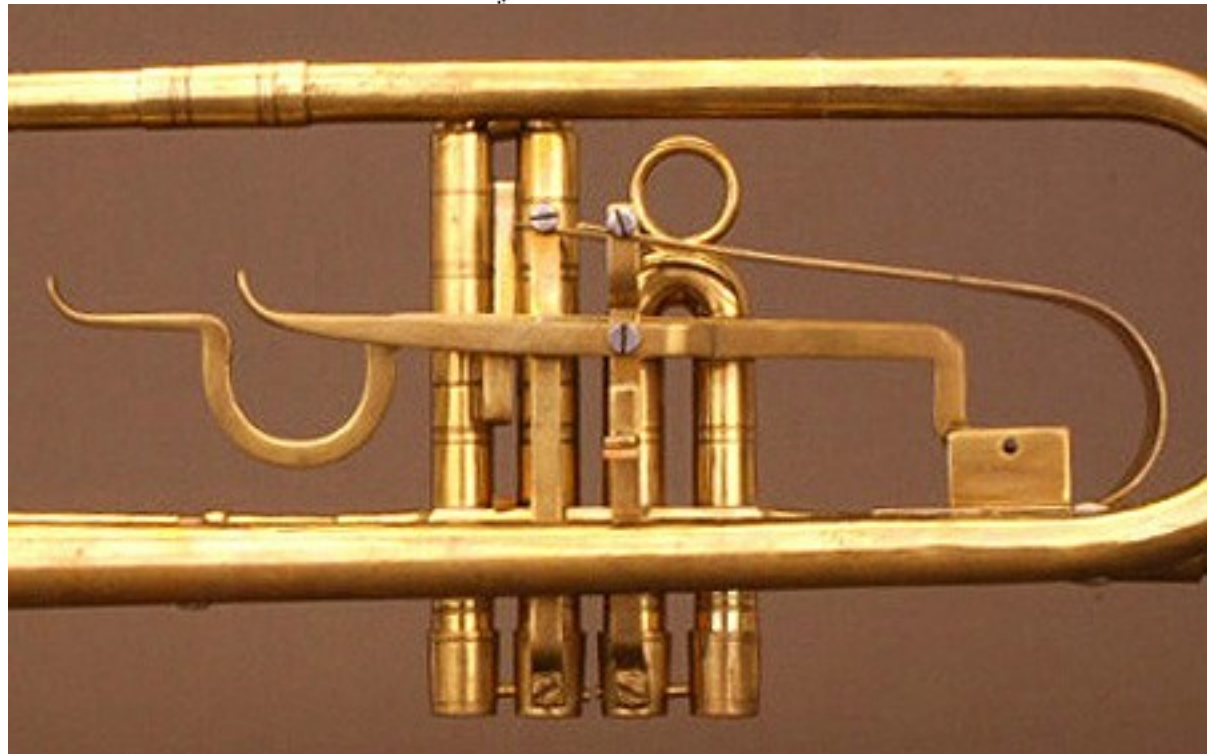


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The Valve Era!

C.F. Sattler Vienna Valve, 1821.



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The Valve Era!

Josef Kail's rotary valve, 1829.

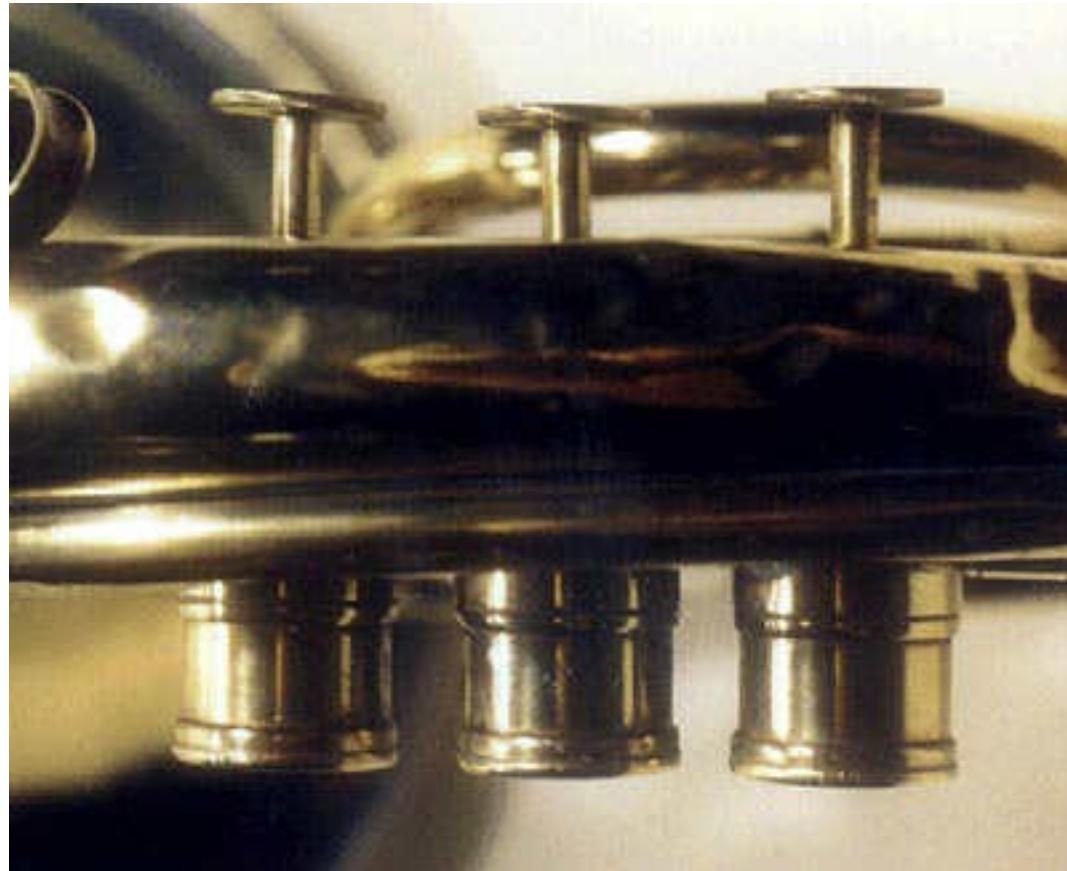


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The Valve Era!

Wilhem Wieprecht's Berlin Valve, 1833.



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J. Shaw's disc valve, 1838.



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François Périnet's piston valve, Paris, 1839.



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Other instruments were invented during the 19th century based on advances in valve technology. A wide variety of low brass instruments were born during this time. The Saxhorn family (invented by Adolph Sax, the inventor of the saxophone) became popular for a time in marching and outdoor bands. The cornet was created by adding valves to a posthorn, or small horn. The flugelhorn, used extensively today in jazz and brass bands, was created by adding valves to a military bugle.



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(1900- present)

Twentieth Century

Performers and composers experimented with trumpets and cornets of various sizes & keys throughout the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Today, most trumpets are keyed in B-flat or C. Trumpets pitched in D, E-flat, F and G are available but are considered specialty instruments. The highest trumpet is the A/B-flat piccolo, developed in 1905 specifically for performing the difficult clarino parts of JS Bach. It is now used most often to perform Baroque music but it's occasionally used to negotiate high, intricate orchestral parts.



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